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CONTENTS.

LEADERS.

An Official Swindle, 249.
A Word—in Season, 309.
Death of the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch,
The, 61.
Emperor of Russia and Philately, The Late, 1.
Fashion, The, 277.
Issue of British Colonial Stamps, The, 181.
Long Firm, The, 201.
Modern Catalogue, The, 225.
New Crusade, The, 93.
New Crusaders, The, 121.
Presentation to Mr. Douglas Garth, The, 33.
Recess, The, 153.

ARTICLES.

Adhesive Stamps of Holland, The, 42.
Annual Dinner of the London Philatelic Society,
The, 48.
Bahamas, Note on the Early Issues of, 13.
Early New Zealand Stamps, 203.
Ex-King of Naples, The Late, 2.
Exhibition of Stamps in New Zealand, 12.
Fashionable Stamps, 281.
Fashionable and Unfashionable Stamps, 99.
First Four Pence of Western Australia, The,
38, 227.
First Shanghai Stamps, The, 62.
Further Notes on the First Four Pence of
Western Australia, 227.
High Watermark, 34.
Holland, The Adhesive Stamps of, 42.
Indian Post-office Service Post Cards, Stray
Notes on, 95.
Lithographic Errors of Oldenburg, The, 256.
Locally Printed Stamps of Tasmania, 1888-1891,
The, 278.
Mounting Stamps in Albums, 255.
New Crusade, The, 134, 164, 188, 207, 264.

New South Wales, The Registered Stamps of,
182.
New Zealand Stamps, Early, 203.
New Zealand, Notes on the First Issued Stamps
of, 123, 154.
New Zealand, Remarks on the Early Postal
Rates of, 123, 154.
Note on the Early Issues of Bahamas, 13.
Notes on Switzerland and the Cantonal Stamps,
285, 311.
Notes on West Australian Stamps, 4.
Oldenburg, The Lithographic Errors of, 256.
Philatelic Exhibition at Ipswich, The, 229.
Philatelic Society, London, The Annual Dinner
of the, 48.
Philatelic Society, London, Report of the, 160.
Philbrick Collection, The, 9, 73, 130.
Registered Stamps of New South Wales, The,
182.
Remarks on the Early Postal Rates of New
Zealand, 123, 154.
Report of the Philatelic Society, London, 160.
Rock Ahead in Philately, The, 70.
Sale of Postmarked Reprints by the New South
Wales Post-office, 250.
Seebeck, Mr. N. F., and the South American
Stamps, 318.
Seventh German Philatelic Congress, at Mannheim,
The, 209.
Shanghai Stamps, The First, 62.
Society for the Suppression of Speculative
Stamps, The, 134, 164, 188, 207, 264, 321.
Speculative Issues, The New Crusade against,
134, 164, 188, 207, 264, 321.
Stray Notes on Indian Post-office Service Post
Cards, 95.
Suggested Methods for the Restoration of Colour
to Postage Stamps, The, 14.
Switzerland and the Cantonal Stamps, Notes on,
285, 311.
Tasmania, 1888-1891, The Locally Printed
Stamps of, 278.

- West Australian Stamps, Notes on, 4.
 Western Australia, The First Four Pence of, 38, 227.
 Western Australia, Further Notes on the First Four Pence of, 227.

PHILATELIC NOTES.

- A Notable Variation of Watermark (India), 232.
 Australian Letter, Our, 165, 268, 296, 326.
 Bangkok, The 32 c., 139.
 British South Africa, 190.
 Dies of the De La Rue Colonial Issues, The, 211.
 Discovery of St. Louis Stamps, The, 233.
 Discoveries—
 Brazil, 290.
 Ceylon, 16, 50.
 Great Britain, 18, 76, 103.
 Mauritius, 16.
 New South Wales, 104, 322.
 New Zealand, 77, 190.
 Queensland, 190.
 Queensland, The 2d. Bisected, 17.
 St. Helena, 16.
 St. Vincent, 104.
 South Australia, 190, 212.
 Straits Settlements, 323.
 Trinidad, 50.
 United States, 104.
 Victoria, 77, 290.
 West Australia, 50, 212.
 First West Australia Fourpence, The, 105.
 Great Britain, The 6d. light buff, Plate 13, 50.
 Hyderabad (Deccan) Stamps, Official Surcharge on the, 16.
 (India), A Notable Variation of Watermark, 232.
 Indian Letter Sheets, 139.
 Marginal Watermark Letters, 77.
 New South Wales, The "Postage Due" Stamps of, 167.
 New South Wales Twopenny Blue of 1862-4, The, 291.
 New Zealand Dates, 16.
 Official Surcharge on the Hyderabad (Deccan) Stamps, 16.
 Parma, The 80 c. of, 231.
 Portugal Provisorio, 139.
 "Postage Due" Stamps of New South Wales, The, 167.
 Queensland (Our Australian Letter), 165.
 St. Louis Stamps, The Discovery of, 233.
 Stamps of the Two Sicilies, The, 103.
 Two Sicilies, The Stamps of the, 103.
 United States, 165.

- Victoria Two Pence, 1852, The, 50.
 Victoria Twopenny "Emblems," The, 290.
 West Australia Fourpence, The First, 105.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

- A Californian Find ! 141.
 A Discovery, 52.
 A Very Important Case, 292.
 "A Warning to Stamp Collectors," 140.
 Annual Dinner of the London Philatelic Society, The, 18.
 Australian Notes, 108, 214, 268, 296, 326.
 Austrian "Mercury" Stamps, The, 325.
 Catalogue of the Revenue Stamps of the British Colonies, 295.
 Crusade Against Speculative Issues, The, 294.
 Dangerous Forgeries, 213.
 Death of H.I.H. The Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch, 78.
 Earl of Kingston, The, 140.
 Editorial Note, 51.
 Electioneering and Philately, 191.
English Specialists' Journal, The, 294.
 Expert Committee—Reduction of Fees, The, 51.
 Ex-President of the London Philatelic Society, The, 323.
 Forged Roumania and Parma Stamps, 80.
 Forgeries, 108.
 Funeral of the Grand Duke, The, 78.
 Hadlow's Queensland Catalogue, Mr., 325.
 H. M. Customs and Philately in India, 236.
 Hilckes and Co.'s "Desideratum" Album, Messrs. H., 171.
 "Hobbies," 295.
 Important to Members of the London Philatelic Society, 170.
 Jones, The Late Mr. C. K., 79.
 London Philatelic Society's African Catalogue, The, 292.
 New Albums for Specialising, 107.
 New Crusade, The, 107.
 Notes from Australia, 108, 214, 268, 296.
 "Peckitt's Catalogue, 1895," 193.
 Philatelic Exhibition at Bombay, 107.
 Philatelic Exhibition at Ipswich, 217.
 Philatelists' Supplement to the *Bazaar*, The, 51.
 Philatelic Protection Association, The, 142.
 Presentation to Mr. Douglas Garth, 18.
 President of the London Philatelic Society, The, 267.
 Proposed Sale of Colonial Stamps in England, 213.
 Reduction of the Transvaal Postal Tariff, 236.
 Robberies of Collections in Canada, 79.
 Roumania and Parma Stamps, Forged, 80.

CONTENTS.

v

Seebeck upon Speculative Issues, Mr. N. F., 237.
 Silly Season ! The, 234.
 Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps,
 The, 268.
 South African Philatelic News, 191.
 South African Provisionals, 216.
 Splitting-Perforations ! 234.
 Stamp Collectors' Pocket Book, 142.
 "Tapling Collection," The, 106, 234.
 Tapling Collection, Presentations to the, 106.
 Tapling, Miss, 234.
 "Tug of War, The," 324.
 Unnecessary Issues. (The Rock Ahead), 235
 United States Envelopes Supplement, The, 105,
 324.
 "Views" of Mr. E. Shorthouse, The, 19.
 West Indian Philately, 295.
 Whitfield King's New Albums, Messrs. 170.

REVIEWS.

British Empire Album, The, 218.
 Ewen's Great Britain Catalogue, Mr., 242.
 Hilckes' Auction Summary, 328.
 Imperial Postage Stamp Album, The, 19.
 Mekeel's Standard Catalogue, 219.
 Morley's Catalogue, Mr. W., 54.
 Senf's Catalogue, Messrs., 218.
 Shanghai, 52.
 Stamp News Annual, The, 54.
 Stamps of Holland and its Colonies, The, 80. ✦
 Stamps of St. Vincent, The, 241.
 Standard Catalogue, The, 53.
 Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, Messrs., 239.
 Straits Settlements Stamps, The, 52.

NEW ISSUES.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

Bermuda, 55, 143.
 British Bechuanaland, 20, 143, 171.
 British Central Africa, 220, 269, 328.
 British East Africa, 220, 243, 269, 297, 329.
 British Guiana, 20.
 British Honduras, 144.
 British North Borneo, 269.
 Canada, 193, 243, 329.
 Cape of Good Hope, 21, 55.
 Ceylon, 21, 110, 171, 193, 269, 297.
 Cyprus, 55, 82.
 Falkland Islands, 171.
 Fiji, 220, 243.
 Gibraltar, 171, 297.
 Gold Coast, 220, 269.

Great Britain, 21, 55, 110, 220, 269.
 Grenada, 269.
 Hong Kong, 55.
 India, 55, 82, 144, 171, 194, 243, 269, 297.
 Labuan, 55, 82.
 Lagos, 110, 172.
 Mauritius, 270, 329.
 Natal, 110, 144, 172, 220.
 Newfoundland, 55.
 New South Wales, 110, 172, 270.
 New Zealand, 82, 110, 172, 194, 221.
 Pahang, 82, 297.
 Perak, 21, 172, 221, 244, 270.
 Queensland, 21, 55, 82, 144, 172, 194, 221, 244,
 270, 329.
 St. Helena, 21, 55, 111.
 Sarawak, 82.
 Selangor, 55, 194, 270.
 Seychelles, 21, 111, 144, 329.
 Sierra Leone, 55, 172.
 South Australia, 55, 297.
 Straits Settlements, 21, 111.
 Trinidad, 144.
 Turks Islands, 172, 194, 270, 297.
 Victoria, 21, 221, 244, 270.
 Zululand, 21, 83, 144, 244.

EUROPE.

Austria, 55, 173, 330.
 Bavaria, 21, 144, 221.
 Belgium, 56, 297.
 Bulgaria, 21, 194, 244, 270, 297, 330.
 Finland, 297.
 France, 173, 298.
 Greece, 111, 173, 298.
 Holland, 22, 56, 83, 111, 194.
 Iceland, 194.
 Italy, 111, 221, 244.
 Levant, The, 298.
 Luxemburg, 56, 173, 298.
 Monaco, 83.
 Montenegro, 22, 270.
 Norway, 244, 298, 330.
 Portugal, 56, 244, 298.
 Roumania, 221, 298.
 San Marino, 56,
 Servia, 22, 144, 194, 244.
 Spain, 145, 173.
 Sweden, 244.

AMERICA.

Argentine Republic, 22, 56, 194, 330.
 Bolivia, 83, 298.
 Brazil, 22, 56, 83, 145, 244, 330.
 Chili, 22.
 Colombia, 111.
 Columbian Republic, 298.
 Dominican Republic, 244, 298.
 Guatemala, 111, 270.
 Hayti, 145.
 Honduras, 56.
 Mexico, 22, 111, 145, 173, 270, 330.
 Nicaragua, 56.
 Panama, 22.
 Paraguay, 83, 244.
 Peru, 145, 173, 330.
 San Salvador, 83.
 United States, 22, 83, 145, 173, 221, 245, 271, 298.
 Uruguay, 173, 298, 330.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

Abyssinia, 221, 245.
 Bhopal, 84.
 China, 173.
 Chinese Local Issues, 22, 83.
 Congo, 84.
 Cook Islands, 84, 111.
 Corea, 271.
 Cuba, 84.
 Danish West Indies, 194.
 Eritrea, 298.
 Faridkot, 23.
 Fernando Po, 145, 173, 330.
 Fez Sefro, 84.
 French Colonies, 145.
 French Levant, 245.
 Gwalior, 298.
 Nowanugger, 330.
 Nyassa, 23.
 Orange Free State, 111, 222, 245, 271.
 Persia, 23, 84, 173, 194.
 Philippine Islands, 112.
 Porto Rico, 84, 145, 173, 245.
 Puttialla, 23.
 Samoa, 82, 173.
 Siam, 84, 245.
 Sirmoor, 84, 111, 330.
 Somali Coast, 84.
 Tonga, 222, 245.
 Transvaal, 23, 84, 112, 145, 194, 222, 245, 271, 298.

Travancore, 23, 245.
 Trinidad (Principality of), 23.
 Tunis, 194.
 Turkey, 194.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES' MEETINGS.

Bengal, 175, 246.
 Birmingham, 25, 58, 113, 148, 176, 195, 246, 271, 301, 334.
 Bradford, 26, 87, 113, 148, 272, 302, 334.
 Brighton, 27, 59, 86, 114, 148, 176, 195, 302, 334.
 Johannesburg, 27.
 Leeds, 114, 147, 247, 272, 335.
 London, 23, 57, 85, 112, 146, 174, 195, 299, 330.
 Manchester, 28, 87, 115, 196, 222, 303, 335.
 New York, 28, 88, 116, 197, 223, 273, 304, 336.
 Ottawa, 337.
 Plymouth, 30, 90, 116, 176, 198, 222, 305, 337.
 South Australia, 90.
 Victoria, 223.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"A Californian Find," 199.
 A Complaint, 274.
 An Appeal, 306.
 British East Africa, 339.
 British Indian Post Cards, 338.
 Emperor of Russia and Philately, The Late, 30.
 "Errors," 273.
 Fashionable Stamps, 150.
 "Great Britain and Colonies," 306.
 Holland and Her Colonies, 149.
 Holland, The Stamps of, 118.
 Indian Fiscals Postally Used, 199.
 Indian Service Cards, 151.
 Indian Watermarks, 274.
 Leeward Islands' Reminders, 338.
 Natal, Speculative Issues, 178.
 New Crusade, The, 117.
 New South Wales Watermarks, 1870-1887, T e, 149.
 Official Indian Post Cards, The, 177.
 Parma, The 80 c., 274.
 Spanish Forgeries, 177.
 Speculative Issues, Natal, 178.
 Stamps of Holland, The, 118.
 Transvaal Waggon, The, 274.
 What does a Guarantee Mean? 117.
 Worthless New Issues, 91.

THE MARKET.

Auction at Amsterdam, 224.

AUCTIONS—

Albrecht & Co., Messrs. R. F., 119, 200, 308, 341.

Bogert and Durbin Co., 180.

Cheveley & Co., Messrs., 32, 92, 120, 152, 179, 200, 224, 248, 276, 343.

Hadlow, Mr. W., 32, 60, 152, 179, 276, 308, 342.

Puttick & Simpson, Messrs., 32, 120, 152, 179, 275, 307, 342.

Ridout, Mr. Wm., 342.

Sanderson, H. K., 180.

Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, Messrs., 31, 60, 92, 120, 152, 178, 179, 275, 307, 339, 340.

Belgian Government Auction, A, 92.

New Financial Record, A, 276.

Pall Mall-ese, 339.

CONTRIBUTORS.

Bacon, E. D., 13, 38, 203, 227.

Bate, A. T., 203.

Castle, M. P., 4, 34, 70, 182, 256.

Ehrenbach, Robert, 99, 229, 256.

Gillespie, J. W., 42.

Hilckes, Harry, 209.

Jones, T. Wickham, 62.

Kingston, Earl of, 255.

Mottram, Chas. H., 123, 154.

Pfenninger, Otto, 285, 311.

Ransom, F.C.S., F., 14.

Raynor, M.A., Rev. P. E., 278.

Smith, Gordon, 9, 73, 130.

Smith, Major Adam, 95.

Wilson, W. T., 281.





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No. 37.

The late Emperor of Russia, and Philately.



IN another column of this issue will be found an important official letter, emanating from Major Sharples, who writes on behalf of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelowitch, to finally extinguish the various *canards* that have so long been associated with the late Czar's name. The familiar adage that "a lie will travel round the world while truth is putting on its boots" is faithfully exemplified in this instance. For several years past there have been reports and paragraphs in the press—Philatelic and daily—as to the supposed connection of the late Imperial occupant of the Russian throne with stamp collecting. These little efforts of imagination have been copied and re-copied into every imaginable journal, with such additions and alterations as commended themselves to the several editorial imaginations. To cite a few of these fantasies: the late Emperor had the finest collection in the world, had everything unused, had special issues reprinted for him, had the Post-office Mauritius by the dozen; that stamp collecting was his greatest relaxation, that certain collectors purchased directly for His Majesty, that the Emperor frequently made large purchases at enormous prices in London, Paris, Hamburg, etc., that this grand collection has been bequeathed to our illustrious colleague, the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelowitch, and so on *ad infinitum*. From this mountain of Philatelic myth is evolved the ridiculous mouse of Philatelic fact, set forth in the Grand Duke's letter—that beyond the possession of a few stamps of no importance the late Emperor had no connection with Philately whatever.

M. Moens has also some remarks on the subject of these imaginary collectors in the December number of the *Timbre-Poste*, and instances, beyond the late Emperor's case, that of the Baron A. de Rothschild, whose

name as a leading collector has constantly been dragged in with others, among celebrated collectors, by the paragraphists. It appears that the Baron terminated his connection with Philately nearly a quarter of a century since, and that the sale of his collection followed closely after, perhaps, as our contemporary naïvely puts it, for the reason that no well-advised banker ever allows capital to remain unproductive. We fancy, however, that had Baron A. de Rothschild's fine collection been allowed to "ripen," its interest and compound interest would have been multiplied over and over again at modern values.

It is therefore well that, once and for all, a quietus should be administered to these Philatelic Apocrypha, and the thanks of the community are due to our Imperial colleague for his communication to this effect. We cannot, however, take leave of the subject of the late Czar and Philately, without recognising that the latter has an equally illustrious and scientific votary in the person of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Alexis, and of tendering to His Imperial Highness the sincerest wishes of all collectors, that he may speedily be restored to wonted health, and that he may be spared for many years to enjoy the pursuit that he has taken up with such true Philatelic ardour.

The late Ex-King of Naples.



HE disappearance of the son of the notorious King "Bomba" is one that merits a record in Philatelic journals, as showing a very interesting link connecting our science with history, and we therefore make no apology for giving in this journal an epitome of what has appeared in the columns of the general press.

The deceased Prince, who expired on the 28th December last, Francis Maria Leopold, of the House of Bourbon, was born in 1836. His mother was Princess Christiana Maria, of Savoy, the first wife of his father, the notorious Ferdinand II., whose cruel bombardment of Messina in the course of the sanguinary suppression of the revolt in Sicily in 1848 earned him the *soubriquet* of "Bomba," or "Re Bomba," a nickname which in after years the son inherited in the diminutive form "Bombalino." As a youth Prince Francis compared unfavourably in mental endowments with his half-brothers, the Counts of Trani, Caserta, and Bari. His education by the Jesuits predisposed him to anti-Liberal views and to an Absolutist policy. In 1859 he married Princess Marie, daughter of Duke Maximilian of Bavaria, and sister of the Empress Elizabeth of Austria. His father, Ferdinand II., died on the 22nd of May, 1859, a very critical time, leaving the throne to Prince Francis, who was ill-prepared to cope with the coming storm.

He followed the fatal example of his father, and keeping the old Camarilla, with the widowed Queen at their head, in power, opposed all attempts at reform. Even after the outbreak of the war between Austria and Sardinia he continued to rule Naples and Sicily with such cruelty and tyranny, that the foreign diplomatists at his Court could not forbear urging him to concede certain reforms, and especially to cease throwing people into prison on mere suspicion. When Victor Emmanuel invited Francis to assist in the war against Austria, the request was rejected; but

on the 4th of April, 1860, a revolution broke out. Palermo gave the signal for revolt. Garibaldi and his volunteer army landed on the 11th of May at Marsala, and the King at length agreed to grant his subjects Constitutional Government. But it was already too late. Garibaldi, after capturing Palermo and Messina, crossed over to the mainland, and marched on Naples. The King dismissed his Ministers on the 25th of June, called in Spanelli and other Constitutional Ministers, and announced a general amnesty, but the Royal promises had been so often broken that no one trusted them this time. The troops of the Royal Army deserted and joined the Garibaldians, and the King's cause was virtually lost. However, he and his brave wife, with a small force, threw themselves into the fortress of Gaeta, where they maintained a gallant defence for several months, the Queen performing acts of bravery which excited the admiration of all Europe. But in the end they were compelled to capitulate (February 13th, 1861). The King and Queen then retired to Rome, where they have since chiefly resided.

The dates of the several issues of Sicily and Naples, according to Dr. E. Diena, who has kindly assisted in the compilation of this article, are—

1. Naples; series of Bourbon arms, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 50 grana, Jan. 1st, 1858.
2. " Bourbon arms, $\frac{1}{2}$ *tornese*, *blue*, early in Nov., 1860.
3. " Savoy Cross, $\frac{1}{2}$ " " early in Dec., 1860.
4. Sicily; series of Ferdinand II. head, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 50 grana, Jan. 1st, 1859.
5. The Neapolitan provinces; series of Embossed head of Victor Emmanuel, $\frac{1}{2}$ *tornese*, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 50 grana, April 1st, 1861.



1 and 2



3



4



5

The reduction of the postage for newspapers, circulars, etc., for the interior of the kingdom to half—grana to *tornese* (2)—took place on the entry of Garibaldi into Naples on Sept. 8th, 1860, and was probably adopted as an early promise of future benefits to accrue from the overthrow of the Bourbon dynasty. No. 1 has "G $\frac{1}{2}$ ": No. 2 has "TE" (engraved on the Plate) in lieu thereof.

The substitution of the cross of Savoy (3) was effected prior to the entry of *Il Re Galantuomo* into Naples on Nov. 7th, 1860, the appearance of the *Fleur de lis* on the postage stamps being naturally repugnant to the "King of Italy." The haste with which this work was executed on the existent "Trinacria" Plate has given one of the most interesting chapters in Philatelic History.

The portrait on the Sicily stamps (4) is that of the father of the lately deceased ex-King, Ferdinand II., of unenviable celebrity, but whose rugged physiognomy has given us an artistic and striking series of stamps that are a perennial source of delight to collectors. The series with the embossed heads took the place of all the stamps previously issued for both kingdoms; and we venture to think that the re-enumeration of these several dates will be found of interest to many, who may not have seen how perfect a reflex of these three eventful years in Italian history may be gathered from a contemplation of the stamps then issued. They may indeed be said to contribute the most striking evolution in dynastic history that the whole range of Philately can present.

Notes on West Australian Stamps.

ISSUES OF 1854 AND 1861.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON NOVEMBER 19TH, 1894.

BY M. P. CASTLE, VICE-PRESIDENT.



THE subject-matter of these notes (made a long time since) affords nothing very striking or novel, but may be deemed of interest to many collectors of this country's favoured stamps who have not especially considered, or are perhaps unaware of, the variations that I propose to allude to.

The issues of West Australia have not been so exhaustively treated on as is the case with other Australian colonies, the contributions of late years having principally emanated from the fertile pen of Mr. E. D. Bacon. A notable exception, however, will be found in the excellent monograph on these stamps written by Mr. C. J. Phillips, and published in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly Journal* in July, October, and November last year. With the aid of official information Mr. Phillips was enabled to fix the date of issue of the first series 1d., black, 4d., blue, and 1s., brown, and to give a variety of other excellent and well-considered information, which I think I may venture to characterise—with the approval of all my *confrères* of the London Society—as reflecting great credit upon the writer, and as forming a valued contribution to the sum of Philatelic knowledge.

In the letter to Mr. Phillips of Mr. W. J. Williams, the Private Secretary to the Postmaster-General of Western Australia, it is stated that the 4d. value, on which I propose to make a few remarks, was issued, with the other two values already referred to, on August 1st, 1854.

A list is given by Mr. Phillips of the shades of blue in this stamp which could be slightly extended, and perhaps a fuller description added to that of the paper, which is noted as "generally tinted yellow-brown by the action of the gum." I have found specimens, not only on paper varying somewhat in thickness, in almost every conceivable shade, whether produced by gum action or not, from pure white to yellow, and even brown. This stamp was in issue for nearly seven years, and there is no doubt but that, in common with many other Oceanians, the several printings were so different that they constitute marked varieties, and could, under more modern Philatelic developments, be classed as "issues" or "sub-issues." In addition to this lengthened period of regular existence these stamps seem to have remained in a state of semi-suspended animation for several years after their supersession by the 4d., vermilion, with star watermark, in 1861, as rouletted copies have been seen with much later dates, the latest known as yet being January 26th, 1866.



1



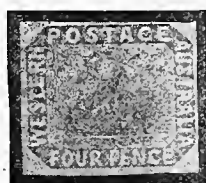
2



3



4



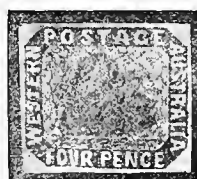
5



6



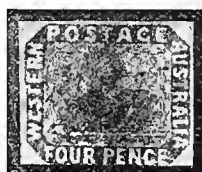
7



8



9



10



11



12



13

This fourpenny value is rendered still more attractive as embracing one of the literally rare birds in the shape of an inverted swan, which is naturally one of the most sought after of Australian stamps, and has unfortunately never flown in my direction. Mr. Phillips of course includes this in his list as a "variety," but there are other if slighter variations in the impressions of some of the printings of these stamps that have been hitherto practically unrecorded, although they have not been unknown to the older school of collectors. I now bring to your notice the following specimens, placing them in the order as they occur in the two collections.

1. The octagonal band of colour above, with word "Postage," is narrower than usual, and the letters A, G, and E extend to the extreme edge. Mr. Phillips has this variety also rouletted.
2. A horizontal line of colour is to be seen at the right upper end of the band with "Postage."
3. The "T" of "Postage" is shaved off to a point at its base.
4. The "F" of "Four" is shaved off almost to a point at the top of the vertical stroke.
5. The letters "PE" of "Pence" are closed up together, measuring from outside to outside $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm., the normal measurement being approximately 3 mm.
6. Practically the same as No. 5, but the letters "PE" measure $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in extreme width, and there are slight differences in the impression, shape of frame, and contour of lettering, which indicate that it is from a different lithograph to No. 5.
7. The letters "CE" of "Pence" are closed up, measuring $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm. from outside to outside, the normal measurement being 3 mm.
8. The word "Western" measures $13 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$; the "U" of "four" is badly formed, and more compressed than normally.
9. The word "Western" measures $12\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$.
10. The letters "West" of "Western" measure $7 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and "ern" of the same word 5×2 .
11. The letters "Aust" of "Australia" measure $6 \times 1\frac{3}{4}$, and "ralia" of the same word $7\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.
12. The "N" of "Pence" is narrower than usual, being barely 1 mm. wide, instead of $1\frac{1}{4}$.
13. Small "S" in "Postage."

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 are in the Castle Collection.

Nos. 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 are in the Tapling Collection.

The normal measurements of the words "Western" and "Australia" are respectively 13×2 and 14×2 mm.

From personal examination of all these varieties, it will be seen that the colour of all these varieties is practically the same, and therefore I am led to the conclusion that it was only in certain printings that these variations occur. The stamps were lithographed in the Colony, and contained 240 impressions, in 20 rows of 12 each. This sheet, as far as I can recollect from a portion that I once saw, was divided into 2 panes, each containing 10 rows of 12; and I am distinctly under the impression that this portion of the

sheet was in the normal light blue shade, and contained no errors or variations of the die whatever. The process of lithography is well known to almost every collector (and even the exceptions, can, thanks to Major Evans and Dr. Legrand's late works, easily acquire the knowledge); but I may briefly state that the impressions are renewed from one stone to another by means of transfer papers, and it can be readily understood that in such a process, requiring great care, defects were likely to be made ere the new impression was squarely and evenly established on the fresh stone. Numerous similar instances of these "defective transfers" could be cited, prominently the cases of the first issue of Victoria and the third issue of Oldenburg. In the former instance the defects in the transfer are occasionally quite alarming in their extent, and the "Transfer-er" has remedied (?) the defects in the crudest manner possible, with strokes and scratches of infantile artistic power. In the case of the stamps before us, no attempt has, as far as I am aware, been made to remedy the disasters caused in the process of transferring. I venture the suggestion that the transfer paper was not properly and regularly flattened out all over the stone, and that through pressure some portions occasionally "rucked up," to use a homely expression. The varieties, such as 6 and 7, seem to support this theory, the appearance of the letters being condensed or compressed together, as would probably happen if the paper were squeezed up together in any way. The larger question of how the swan achieved his inverted existence might also possibly be referred to the same cause; *i.e.*, a blotchy or defective transfer of the central design only, which, being so prominent, would require immediate attention, hence was probably remedied on the spot by the ingenuous printer, who inadvertently replaced the damaged centre the wrong way up.

I have alluded to the even colour of my specimens of these varieties. This colour is perhaps the commonest of all in this stamp; hence, if the printing of the sheets containing the errors was proceeded far with they should be readily found, as enormous quantities of this stamp remained on sale after they were superseded. The exact converse, however, obtains; and although the late Vice-President and I both searched high and low during many years for these varieties, the only specimens we acquired were those in the British Museum, seven in number, and the few copies I have been enabled to lay before you to-night. I am therefore led to the conclusion that these defective transfers were speedily withdrawn from use, and fresh and more perfect ones re-taken as and when required. I throw it out as a suggestion that the bizarre appearance of the Swan in a gymnastic attitude, called the attention of the authorities to the obviously defective transfer taken, as a whole, and that possibly all occurring on the same sheet or pane, were speedily withdrawn from circulation, and superseded by the normal lithographs. I cannot otherwise account for the great scarcity of these varieties. I know of at least six specimens of the inverted centre, and I believe this number can be doubled; but in the instances of some of the varieties noted to-night I know of them only in single or double existence. They are apparently equally as few in number as the more glaring error, and I am therefore led to think it as possible that all occurred on the same sheet.

The Issue of 1861.

In Mr. Phillips' list of the varieties of these stamps he has given extended study to the various perforations, which approximately include 14, 14½, 15, 15½, and 16 gauges, and every combination between them. The 4d. alone, however, occurs with four varieties of perforation only, all of which except the "14" are scarce, and the relative rarity of this stamp seems accounted for by the concurrent use (already referred to) of the preceding octagonal stamp. I may say, parenthetically, that as a student of minor varieties I am not concerned to advocate the collection of all these compound varieties of perforation, where they appear promiscuously, *unaccompanied by any other variation of paper or colour of impression*. In this case Mr. Phillips gives nearly fifty varieties—susceptible of additions and irrespective of shades of each—and in my humble judgment, except to the catalogue-compiler or the Philatelist who takes the one country only, these minor and, so to say, incidental varieties do not call for collation at the hands of the general body of collectors.

The stamps of this issue are then :

- 1d., deep rose, lake, carmine, *pale red*.
- 2d., deep blue, blue, pale blue.
- 4d., vermilion.
- 6d., purple-brown shade.
- 6d., ditto, *on blued paper*.
- 1s., *deep green*, bright green, pale green.

The varieties printed in italics are those to which I would call your attention. All these three varieties are found with a perforation closely resembling that recognised as a portion of the first perforated issue of Queensland, which is generally known as rough perforation, is practically incapable of measurement, and differs materially from those previously alluded to in the fact that the holes are practically *punctures only*, take away nothing of the substance of the paper, and therefore are more akin to roulettes than to ordinary clean-cut perforations. Of these three stamps the 1d., pale red, is found with both these classes of perforation; but the 6d. on *bleuté* paper, and the 1s. in the rich dark green, have only been seen with the blind perforation, which it is practically impossible to measure. The colour of the former, instead of being purple-brown (in the normal set), is really a dullish violet, and absolutely and unmistakably of a different colour and impression. The shade of the shilling is a full, rich, almost intense green, widely differing from the regularly-perforated stamp, and, owing to the thickness of the paper on which it is printed, shows the watermark so indistinctly that it has frequently been assigned to the unwatermarked series of the following issue. These two latter stamps have always therefore been of the Ishmael tribe, having wandered from one location to another without having any common grounds of resemblance to the occupants of either, and it is with a view to give them a respite from these Philatelic pilgrimages that I allude to them now. My suggestion is that, following the precedent of Queensland already referred to, they should be constituted a separate set or sub-issue. I have

not had an opportunity to inspect dated specimens, but judging from their scarcity I should imagine them to have had priority of issue. I suggest therefore that this issue should be described as follows in lieu of the list previously given.

ISSUE IV., 1861.

A. *Rough blind perforations.*

1d., pale red, deep rose, carmine.

6d., dull violet, *bleuté*.

1s., deep green.

B. *Clean cut perforations* 14, 14½, 15, 15½, 16, and compounds thereof.

1d., deep rose, lake-carmine, pale red.

2d., blue shades.

4d., vermilion.

6d., purple-brown, slight shades.

1s., bright green, pale green.

I think if the stamps of this issue are arranged on the foregoing basis they will be found to fall into line, and that therefore these few notes may be of some little assistance to collectors.

I may be allowed perhaps, as this seems a fitting occasion, to allude to the well-known fact that I have recently—and with great reluctance—parted with my collection of Australian stamps. Those among you with whom I have the privilege of long friendship, will readily believe me when I state that my severance from my old Philatelic friends has caused me many a pang. They have afforded me many hours of unmixed happiness, and I can most truthfully aver that my interest in and affection for the stamps of Australia is one that will not wither with age. My stamps are gone, but not my reminiscences of them; and as my sympathies are certainly as full as ever, I quite hope that I may be spared to still have many a pleasant “half-hour with the Australian stamps.”

The Philbrick Collection.

By GORDON SMITH.




AMONG living Philatelists there is no name better known than that of Mr. Frederick A. Philbrick, Q.C., nor one whose fame is of such world-wide extent. The work on the *Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain*, which he wrote in conjunction with Mr. W. A. S. Westoby—a work, which although one of the earliest, still remains one of the best on the stamps of any country yet written—will always entitle the joint-author to a high rank amongst Philatelic students. But beyond this, although a veteran, he is still an enthusiastic collector; and in the old days, when the soldiers of the cause were few, he was amongst the foremost of those who helped to found the Philatelic Society of London, and keep it going during his Presidency.

Under such circumstances it cannot but be of interest to the many who have never had the privilege of seeing his various treasures, now that Mr. Philbrick has parted with that portion of his collection of Great Britain which includes the postal and telegraph adhesives, and proofs and essays, to learn something of the most important items therein contained.

I propose to take each value in ascending order, as, although not a strictly Philatelic method, it will much simplify description.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d.

In the small line-engraved stamp there is a single specimen of plate 9, and imperforate pairs of plates 1 and 11, singles of 4 and 5. Illustrating that peculiar irregularity of perforation in which the outer vertical line is wanting, there are examples shewing this omission on the right side from plates 1, 3, and 12, and on the left from plate 13. In the current orange-vermilion stamp there is a large selection of marginal varieties, including a corner block from the lower right corner of the sheet without letter or line. A sub-variety of the peripheral line not rounded at the corners, but thus , is found in conjunction with the letters D. E. F.

1d.

Of the first issue two pairs in intense black, and a fine block of four of the normal shade with white gum. Belonging to this issue is the "V.R.", which is illustrated by a pair from the left top corner of the sheet shewing the letter A—the number of the plate—this is probably almost unique. These other single specimens which have been officially experimented upon are interesting—one has been *five* times through the post, and the other two obliterated with Post-office ink and printing ink respectively, by the "rings" obliterating stamp, have only partially been restored by the aid of naphtha. Of the *red* and *red-brown* imperforates there are a very fine series of tints, with paper from almost white to very deeply blued. Two shades are particularly noticeable—an *orange-brown* and a *carmine-red*. With these are thirty used specimens taken by the collector from their original envelopes, which have not been *cut* from their sheets, but appear to have been separated by being torn along an edge more or less sharp; and in some the eye of love may detect rouletting. A block of nine with the Archer roulette is not only unique, but also of historical value, having been enclosed in a letter from Mr. Henry Archer to Sir Rowland Hill on the 14th October, 1847. A block of six from the left top corner of the sheet, shewing the plate No.—11, is on "Dickinson" paper.

Die I., S.C., perf. 14.—Five specimens on blued paper, one specimen being on quite white paper, five in the yellow-brown shade on thicker paper, and a pair in a deep plum colour.

Die I., S.C., perf. 16.—Thirty-five specimens, paper shewing all gradations, great variation, and one specimen on white paper.

Die II., S.C., perf. 16.—Six in normal shades, and two in orange-brown.

Die II., S.C., perf. 14.—Thirteen in all, including three in orange, and two in plum colour on deep blue paper.

Die II., L.C., perf. 16.—A block of six, and two single specimens on the blued paper, and two in rose-red on white.

Die II., L.C., perf. 14.—A very fine array, containing twenty-three pairs, of which scarcely two are identical in colour or depth of bluing of the paper. Four surcharged SPECIMEN, five in orange, and two in a dull orange-brown, on paper showing no signs of bluing whatever. On white paper five specimens in a pale red, two in pale rose, and two in rose, *imperfurate*; these latter were issued thus, a few used examples having been discovered, but they are of a high order of rarity. An assortment of the usual lake shades completes this series, with which I include the two official reproductions from plate 66, one in crimson-lake (in a finer ink than that ever used), and the other in black, with inverted watermark, the latter being the well-known so-called "reprint" made for members of the Royal Family.

Plate Numbers.—Great care is here evinced in the selection of shades and papers, several examples of the thin, almost pelure, paper with which collectors are familiar being found. Only seventeen out of the 151 plates are unrepresented by pairs or larger blocks. In imperfurate of the "Cardiff" variety, plate 116, there is a pair and a single, of 120 a single, and of 191 a vertical pair, used.

Subsequent issues call for little notice, except that all has been done that was possible for variety of shade. In the marginal varieties of the current series I notice no absentee (except the first without letter), and imperfurate below is found with L, M, Q, R, S, and, best of all, the error with N cancelled.

1½d.

In the lilac-rose colour of 1860 there is a strip of three from the lower margin, the gum causing the impression to show through the paper, and two singles with white gum not producing this effect. There is a pair of plate 1 in the issued colour. The current stamp is shown with the three varieties of margin.

2d.

Of the first issue there is a fine strip of three, with gum intact; a pair and three singles; and another which Mr. Philbrick says is from plate 2, and printed in a finer ink than plate 1. Some excellent examples of plates 3 and 4, a specimen from plate 3 having the surcharge SPECIMEN (otherwise unknown), and five specimens showing evidences of a cutting instrument, similar to those in the 1d. value already described, complete the imperfurate. From plate 5 there are in S.C., perf. 16, five specimens; L.C., perf. 14, one; and in L.C., perf. 14, six singles and a block of four. From plate 6 (with thinner line) there is one in L.C., perf. 16, and four in L.C., perf. 14. In the plate numbers there are pairs of plates 7 and 12, the latter with the corner margin and plate number, and plate 13, imperfurate, a pair and single. Subsequent issues show a wide range of shades, and the current stamp three varieties of margin.

(To be continued.)

Exhibition of Stamps in New Zealand.



AN inaugural exhibition under the auspices of the Dunedin Philatelic Society was held in Dunedin on the 25th October last. No charge was made for admittance, each member having three tickets at his disposal. The Committee appointed to carry out the details, assisted in a large degree by their hon. secretary, Mr. C. H. Roberts, had used every exertion to render the affair successful, and this being so, it was no surprise to hear the warm approval expressed by one and all at the excellence of the show, and at the manner in which the arrangements were carried out.

The main object in view in holding the exhibition was to induce a larger membership to the society, as it is known there are many advanced collectors in and near Dunedin who do not belong to it.

First in importance undoubtedly were the eight frames exhibited by Mr. W. L. Hooper. This gentleman has long made a speciality of the Australasian colonies, and from the reputation he had of possessing a fine lot, it was no surprise to see the grand display he made. New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Fiji were all represented, and well, by the chief rarities of each colony. No attempt was made in this exhibit to show anything modern or common; they were all good. There were perforated and unperforated, many in pairs and fours, and in all varieties of shades—in fact, many were the envious eyes cast on this really grand exhibit.

In one frame were fine copies of the Sydney View, Laureated, and Diadem stamps of New South Wales; in another, some of the first Victorians, including the “too late” and registered, besides all the earlier varieties; the third contained nearly everything in New Zealand goods—blue paper, pelure, and roulettes; the fourth, South Australia, nearly every variety; the fifth, Tasmania, nearly all the varieties; the sixth, Western Australia, the rare octagon of the first issue, also many early Fijian stamps; the seventh, unperforated Queensland; and the eighth, envelopes and cards.

Mr. B. T. Ringer showed two frames—one of post cards and one of envelopes—both being tastefully arranged.

Mr. C. H. Roberts showed five frames containing postcards, and stamps of India, France, Great Britain, New Zealand, and the United States. He also showed the Mulready envelope, which attracted considerable attention. Among the New Zealands was a printer's proof in black of the present 2½d. stamp.

Mr. G. Turton showed one frame of post cards.

Mr. J. Aris showed four frames—one containing United States periodical stamps; a third, old issues of British colonies other than Australasian; and the fourth, the first issues of New Zealand worked into a tasteful design.

Mr. C. Athya showed one frame of post cards.

The Dunedin Philatelic Society showed a frame containing a collection of forgeries, and other papers belonging to the Society.

Messrs. B. W. White, F. H. Goy, B. T. Ringer, T. S. Payton, and C. Earland exhibited their collections, personally attending and showing the same to the visitors.

We are pleased to note this further evidence of our Australian kinsfolks' interest in Philately, which has many adherents in New Zealand, and congratulate the Dunedin Society on the success that has attended their initial effort, for the description of which we are indebted to the *Otago Witness*.

Note on the Early Issues of Bahamas.

By E. D. BACON.



Looking over the list of Bahamas stamps in the Philatelic Society's *West India Catalogue*, I find that the dates of one or two of the earlier issues need revision.

As stated in my "Preliminary Notes" to the list, the first supply of 4d. and 6d. stamps was sent out by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. on November 27th, 1861; and the plates were handed over to the Crown Agents on January 28th, 1862, after which date Messrs. De la Rue & Co. printed the stamps. It follows, therefore, that only one lot of these stamps on the unwatermarked paper were printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and these were the stamps we know with punctured perforation. The other unwatermarked stamps, perforated either 13 or 12, were printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. in 1862, so that which is called Issue II. in the work should be split up into two issues, as follows:

December, 1861.

Engraved and printed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. on white unwatermarked paper, perforated 14 to 15½.

1 penny, rose-red (shades).
4 pence, rose („).
6 „ grey-lilac („).

1862.

Printed by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. on white unwatermarked paper.

A. PERFORATED 13.

1 penny, lake-red, lake-brown (shades).
4 pence, bright rose („).
6 „ lilac-blue, lilac („).

B. PERFORATED 12.

1 penny, carmine-red (shades).
4 pence, bright rose („).
6 „ lilac („).

Further, as it was only in 1863 that Messrs. De la Rue & Co. commenced to print stamps on the "Crown CC" paper, the date of Issue III. in the book must be altered from 1862 to 1863.

The Suggested Methods for the Restoration of Colour to Postage Stamps.

By F. RANSOM, F.C.S.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, DECEMBER 28TH, 1894.



THE important papers by the Earl of Kingston and Mr. Willett bearing upon this subject, which appear in the November number of the *London Philatelist*, have doubtless been read with much interest by a large circle of collectors. A safe method of restoring the original freshness of colour to the more or less blackened specimens which are so often to be met with in old collections, has for long been a desideratum with many Philatelists.

Referring firstly to the Earl of Kingston's method, it is evident that the liquid, for the preparation of which instructions are given, cannot consist entirely of pure Nitrate of Mercury. Reference is indeed made later in the paper to the "free acid," which remains after the application of the liquid, and which is directed to be removed by plunging the stamp into hot water. The free acid here alluded to consists doubtless of the excess of Nitric Acid, which was used in the first place to dissolve the Mercury. Nitrate of Mercury in the pure state is a white solid, and the solution consists probably of this salt dissolved in Nitric Acid and water.

Thinking it possible that the free Nitric Acid might be the chief agent in removing the discolouration, I experimented in this direction. A much discoloured 3d., blue, Natal (1862 issue), was immersed in very dilute Nitric Acid; in about two hours it was removed, and the blue colour was found to be restored. The stamp was well washed with cold distilled water and carefully dried; no further change has taken place in its appearance. Doubtless by employing a stronger acid the change could be effected more rapidly, but there would be more danger of injuring the fabric of the paper.

On treating a similarly discoloured specimen of the same stamp with a ten-volume solution of Hydrogen Peroxide, as recommended by Mr. Willett, a similar restoration of colour was obtained in about three minutes. Another stamp experimented upon was the 6d., orange-vermilion, Barbados (1871 issue); the colour was again quickly restored. I can therefore fully confirm Mr. Willett's statements as to the value of this solution for the restoration of the original colours to stamps.

In dealing however with the chemistry of the methods, I must venture to dissent from the authors of both the papers.

The Nitric Acid which is evidently present in the Earl of Kingston's solution, and the Hydrogen Peroxide of Mr. Willett's process, are both powerful oxidizing agents. Would it not therefore be much more conceiv-

able that the reactions which take place in each case are those of oxidation rather than de-oxidation, as suggested? It is perfectly true that in certain cases the oxygen liberated from Hydrogen Peroxide does unite with and abstract the oxygen in other bodies, as indicated in Mr. Willett's equation, the resulting O_2 being, however, not ozone, as stated, but normal free oxygen gas. Frequently however the oxygen remains in combination with the substance operated upon, and a clear case of oxidation occurs. Finding that an exactly similar result is obtained upon the stamps by the powerful oxidizing agent Nitric Acid, I think it is reasonable to assume that in both cases the changes which take place involve the retention and not the elimination of oxygen.

I have further confirmed the correctness of this assumption by the following experiments. A bright blue 3d., Natal, and a 6d., orange-vermilion, Barbados, in a similar condition, were subjected for a few seconds to the action of a solution of Sulphuretted Hydrogen. An immediate blackening occurred in both cases, the appearance being very similar to that which is usually seen in so-called oxidized stamps. The stamps were carefully washed and dried, no further change in their appearance taking place. They were then subjected to the Hydrogen Peroxide treatment, and, as anticipated, the original colours were quickly and completely restored. Sulphuretted Hydrogen is a powerful de-oxidizing agent, and the natural inference from the above results is that it was instrumental in abstracting oxygen from the paint, leaving sulphur in the form of a sulphide. The sulphide was decomposed and the oxygen restored by the final action of the Hydrogen Peroxide. If, as is most probable, a compound of lead was present in the pigment, the Sulphuretted Hydrogen would combine with the metal, forming black sulphide of lead. The Hydrogen Peroxide would oxidize this black sulphide into the white sulphate of lead, and thus the discolouration is removed.

Sulphuretted Hydrogen is a very frequent constituent of the atmosphere, especially in the neighbourhood of large towns, and in a damp climate it would be certain to affect injuriously the colour of stamps. I would therefore submit that the so-called oxidation of stamps is a complete misnomer, and that the processes recommended for de-oxidation in reality produce the opposite effect, by introducing oxygen again into the decomposed pigment.



Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

NEW ZEALAND DATES.

MR. J. N. MARSDEN kindly sends us an interesting dated specimen of the first issue of this colony, in supplement to the list thereof published in the October number of this journal. The stamp in question is the 1s. green on blue paper, and the cancellation consists of, in a circle of thin black capitals, the words "Nelson—New Zealand"; within the circle is the date—"Au(gust) 12 1861." This is a remarkable date, being two years later than that of any blue paper specimen recorded by the New Zealand Committee, and indeed is the only specimen yet met with of the 1s. value with a dated obliteration.

OFFICIAL SURCHARGE ON THE HYDRABAD (DECCAN) STAMPS.

WE are indebted to Major Adam Smith for the following information. Our correspondent has received a letter from the Postmaster-General, Nizam's Postal Department, who writes: "I beg to inform you that the Official Service stamps surcharged word 'Sicari' are not being used in H. H. the Nizam's Postal Department, as the system has long since been discontinued, and no stamps of the kind are available here."

DISCOVERIES.

MAURITIUS AND ST. HELENA.—A well-known collector informs us that he possesses the following varieties, all *imperfurate* and in Mint condition :—

Mauritius, 1860.

1d., lilac-brown, no watermark.	
2d., blue	"
4d., rose	"
9d., lilac	"
1d., lilac-brown, watermark CC and Crown.	
9d., green	"
10d., marone	

St. Helena.

3d., violet (short bar).

CEYLON.—Mr. H. Jenkins has been good enough to forward us a curious specimen of a vagary of perforation, being the 5d., watermark star, perforated on either side, with a gauge of 15 for one half of the length and 14 for the remaining half. The measurements are beyond question, and indeed the

difference can be appraised at sight. Mr. A. de Worms, whose splendid collection of Cingalese stamps is so well known, kindly writes us hereon that he has made a careful examination of his collection, and has found the following varieties, in corroboration of Mr. Jenkins' specimen:—

1d., blue, watermark star, perf. vertically on both sides	15	and	14.
5d., brown	"	"	"
5d. "	"	"	"
1s., lilac	"	"	"
	15½		"
	15		13½.

Mr. de Worms has also a strip of the 1d., one pair of which is perforated 14½ all round, and the other 15 × 14½.

These varieties are certainly very curious, but we remember to have seen or have a similar vagary on the 8d. large square issue of New South Wales. The sheets were evidently only part perforated (vertically) by one gauge, and then completed by another operation, having another gauge. We should be glad if some correspondent can enlighten us as to the why and wherefore. It now seems possible to have a stamp with *eight* perforations, whereas we fondly thought that *four* constituted the *millennium*.

Mr. de Worms also kindly sends the following supplement of imperforate stamps (see p. 241, vol. iii., *London Philatelist*) in his collection.

IMPERFORATE. (a) *Watermark CC and Crown.*

- (1) ½d., light violet.
- (2) 1d., blue.
- (3) 1d., ultramarine.
- (4) 2d., dark maize.
- (5) 10d., orange.

No watermark.

- (8) 1s., cold violet.

(b) 1863. DE LA RUE TYPE.

- (6) 1d., blue.
- (7) 3d., pink.

CENTS ISSUE. *Watermark CC.*

- (9) 8c., orange.
- (10) 16c., mauve.
- (11) 36c., blue.
- (12) 48c., rose.
- (13) 96c., slate.
- (14) 32c., slate-blue.
- (15) 64c., red-brown.

Some of these varieties are known, but numbers 3, 6, 8, and 9 are not chronicled, while among them are several mentioned in our previous remarks, and others are hardly known. These specimens are all unused, nor have they been seen used, as far as we are aware.

QUEENSLAND, THE 2d. BISECTED.—Mr. F. Hagen has lately forwarded us a specimen of this value, apparently with the script watermark. The stamp has been severed diagonally, and the envelope in question bears the upper right hand half. It was addressed to a person in Dalby (Queensland), the stamp being cancelled with an obliteration numbered "133." On the back of the envelope is the post mark, "Dalby, Sept. 12, 1866."

The general appearance of the specimen is undoubtedly in its favour, but whether it represents anything more than an oversight on the part of the local postal authorities is open to question. Mr. A. F. Bassett Hull says hereon, in the *Australian Philatelist*:

"Being consequently a 'drop' letter, or one posted at the local office to be called for, the postage would be 1d., and therefore fairly represented by half a twopenny stamp.

"The instance bears a striking resemblance to the case I discovered in Tasmania, of the vertically severed half of a 2d. V.D.L. used on a drop or 1d. rate letter.

"The date of the interesting Queenslander above described precludes the supposition of Philatelic fingers having had anything to do with its production, and it appears to be well worthy of a place amongst the curiosities of a well-ordered collection."

GREAT BRITAIN.—Still they come! Yet another variety of plate number to feed the anxious souls who hanker after the stamps of the mother country. We are indebted to Mr. H. Hilckes (S.C.F.) for a note of the sixpenny Plate 13 in *light buff*. This is presumably of the same colour as Plate 12 with first shade, and must have been but little used to have remained so long *perdu*. The specimen in question is postmarked, and we understand that it is undoubted.

Occasional Notes.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.


WE are informed by the Hon. Sec. that the Annual Dinner of the Society will be held at the Café Monico, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C., on Tuesday, February 26th, at 7.0 p.m. The carrying out of the arrangements in connection therewith are entrusted to Messrs. C. N. Biggs, D. Garth, and T. Wickham Jones, who have so ably fulfilled the functions on previous occasions. It is to be hoped that the attendance on the part of members will be numerous, and that this "festive function" may prove an equal success with its immediate predecessor.

PRESENTATION TO MR. DOUGLAS GARTH.

AT the function named in the foregoing paragraph a pleasing episode will take place, in the guise of a presentation to the esteemed ex-Hon. Secretary of the London Philatelic Society.

In response to the circular sent out by Mr. H. R. Oldfield, with the sanction and approval of the Committee, a large number of members have sent subscriptions towards this object, the result being that Mr. Garth will be the recipient of a handsome and lasting memento of the appreciation of his fellow members with regard to his many services to the London Philatelic Society.


THE "VIEWS" OF MR. E. SHORTHOUSE.

UR esteemed, and may we say ancient, correspondent, has sent a very amusing letter in answer to the Editorial comments on his letter, anent the amalgamation of a former collection of his with that of Mr. Castle, which, however, we need hardly reproduce *in extenso*, as it does not traverse the statements made by us. Mr. Shorthouse was on a veritable "Tom Tiddler's ground, picking up" better than "gold and silver" for many years. Had he combined "collecting" and "accumulating," and despised "dispersing," from the early halcyonic days, there would hardly have been a finer lot of stamps in the world than that of our acute and ingenuous correspondent.

In his comments Mr. Shorthouse goes back to the "glacial period" of Sydney Views, when they were to be had at practically face value in used condition, and writes as to this, "An Australian 'well remembered as a schoolboy on his knees on the floor of a remarkable old woman, picking her Views at 2s. 9d. the dozen!'" The endeavour to grasp the true significance of this sentence—on a par with the "What, no soap," &c.—has almost given us brain fever. However, we trust our correspondent may yet live to call Anno Domini 1895 "good old times." The era of bargains has perhaps not yet passed away—to the far-seeing, such as Mr. Edward Shorthouse.

Reviews.

THE IMPERIAL POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.*

O rapid is the growth of the knowledge of stamp collecting and (alas!) of the New Issues, that scarce two years have sufficed for the complete exhaustion of the sixth edition of this well-known album, and its supersession by the seventh edition. As in the former case, the work has the enormous advantage of the editorship of Major E. B. Evans, whose vast experience in compilation at once stamps with success any book with which he may associate himself. Nor in this case has the accomplished Editor belied his reputation, as, on comparison with its predecessor, the present Imperial stands confessed a vast improvement. In patriotic fashion the stamps of Great Britain head the list, and a most excellent one it is, including all the varieties of watermark and perforation (without plate numbers), and with illustrations of the former (unaccompanied most regrettably by those of the design, owing to the "powers that be"), covering with the text over twenty pages. We note that the V.R. is omitted—in token of its non-issue for general use—but we cannot help thinking that the "average school-boy" would have liked to see its inclusion. Among the purchasers of the Imperial there must be many growing Philatelists, and to them "the V.R." stands as a monument of mystic value! "Alsace and Lorraine" are now included properly under Germany, and many other instances might

* *The Imperial Postage Stamp Album*. 2 vols. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd, 391, Strand, London. W.C.

be cited of information brought up to date. The lists of such complex countries as Straits Settlements are accompanied by illustrations of the various surcharges, and throughout the difficult countries a mass of useful information is appended, that should make the way clear to the most uninitiated. Very many of the lists have been entirely re-written, and in all cases greatly extended, *e.g.*, the list of varieties of the Sydney Views now amounts to no less than twenty-five, and the "Imperial" collector will be happy when he gets them! These various additions involve an extension of the work by about 120 pages, and the paper now used is of a fine and rich texture, that is a great improvement on the previous editions. Another feature is an excellent *précis* of statistical and general information at the head of each country, by Mr. E. J. Nankivell. The volumes are well bound, opening out flat, and as regards typography and general appearance leave nothing to be desired. The Imperial has been before the public for so many years that it may seem superfluous to write anything further in its praise, but we can conscientiously aver that in our opinion it stands in the very forefront of Philatelic albums, and that, with its now widely extended contents, no better book for stamp collectors, who do not specialize, can possibly be found. We have to congratulate Major Evans on his successful conclusion of a most *laborious* undertaking, and to wish that the enterprising publishers may find the sale attain to dimensions that may exceed their expectation; if solid work and value for the money meet their just reward this will inevitably be achieved.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—Three new postcards, consisting of the 1d. Cape of Good Hope card, with the second line of inscription cancelled by a double bar, and the words "BRITISH BECHUANALAND" printed underneath, and also in two lines across the stamp, and the 1d. single and reply cards of Great Britain, with the top line of heading ruled out, and the second and third lines overprinted with the name in tall capitals. The single card also bears

the new value of "THREE—HALF PENCE" in *sans serif* capitals across the lower part of the stamp.

Postcard. 1d., brown and black on white.
1½d., red and black on buff.
1 × 1d., " " " (reply.)

BRITISH GUIANA.—An emission of three new envelopes. The inner design is similar for all values, consisting of the familiar Ship embossed in the centre, surrounded by the motto, "Damus petimusque vicissim," this being further surrounded by an outer engine-turned circle, bearing the inscription

"BRITISH GUIANA" "POSTAGE," and the value in words and figures below. The 1c. has the outside line plain, the 2 c. scalloped, and the 5 c. octagonal.

Envelopes. 1 c., green on white laid, 140 × 75 mm.
2 c., carmine " " 145 × 90 mm.
5 c., ultramarine on white
wove " " " 135 × 105 mm.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 1d. current card, surcharged across the stamp, "ONE—HALF—PENNY" in *sans serif* capitals, with two curved bars cancelling the original value.

Postcard. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., in black, on 1d. brown on white.

CEYLON.—The *American Journal of Philately* mentions a copy of the 25c. current adhesive, with the value printed in yellow(?).

Adhesive. 25 c., brown and yellow.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We understand that the new court size of postcard, mentioned last month, is to come definitely into use on 21st January.

QUEENSLAND.—The *American Journal of Philately* chronicles the current 3d. as existing *imperf*orate.

Adhesive. 3 pence, brown.

ST. HELENA.—We are indebted to Mr. Guy W. Hogg for specimens of a new variety. Our correspondent writes:—"You will be interested to hear that the supply of stamps sent out by Lord Ripon, arrived about the 20th December, and among them a new 2d. stamp. It is of a slightly paler yellow than former 2d., and the watermark is crown and C A, which has never been on the 2d. before, so that it is an entirely new stamp. The surcharge remains as on the last issue of this value, with 'C C.' The bottom row of each sheet has only a fraction of the watermark, as in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. I am enclosing a block of four, off the 19th and 20th rows, so that you may see the difference."

2d., canary-yellow; watermark Cr. and CA.

SEYCHELLES.—*Le Timbre-Poste* says that in November last, there were sent out from England, stamps of 30 cents value, and envelopes of 8 and 15 cents, all having for design a view of the islands, with giant tortoises and coconut palms in the foreground, with the inscription, "*Seychelles*," above and the value below, all enclosed in an oblong frame, with ornaments in four corners.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Both the single and reply 3c. cards are now printed in rose.

Postcards. 3 c., rose on bluff.
3 × 3c. " " (reply.)

Perak.—We have received from Mr. D. Garth a strip of 5 of the current 5 c. stamps, overprinted "SERVICE." The following notice issued by the Government, will explain their use:—

CIRCULAR.—GOVERNMENT PARCELS.

No. 219.—On and after the 1st June next, all Government packets over one pound in weight, requiring to be posted, must be treated as parcels, and the postage is to be paid for. No franking of packets over one pound in weight will be recognised.

2. The postage rate for parcels will be five cents per pound or part of a pound.

3. Service parcels should be sent to the Post-office with a parcels despatch book, in the accompanying form, during the hours for which Post-offices are open for registration and parcels, and a Post-office clerk will acknowledge the receipt of the parcel in the column provided for the purpose.

4. To obviate the handling of money, a certain number of 5 cent. Perak postage stamps, surcharged "Service," will be supplied to each Department free of charge, as stock, and a strict account will be kept of them, and submitted for audit.

5. No surcharged stamps will be recognised as payment of postage on anything that is not handed into the office through a parcel despatch book. No such stamps under any circumstances are to be sold for cash.

7th May, 1894.

Adhesive. 5 c., black surch. on blue. *Service.*

VICTORIA.—According to *Le Timbre-Poste* the unpaid letter stamps are now printed with green centre in place of blue.

Unpaid. $\frac{1}{2}$ penny, green and red

1	"	"	"
2	"	"	"
4	"	"	"
5	"	"	"
10	"	"	"
1	shilling	"	"
2	"	"	"
5	"	"	"

ZULULAND.—The *Metropolitan Philatelist* states that the surcharged stamps were withdrawn from use on December 31st last, and that the full set of the new type are in issue.

EUROPE.

BAVARIA.—The following cards are dated "1894":

Post Cards. 3 × 3 pfennig, brown
10 " " carmine
10 × 10 " "

BULGARIA.—*Le Timbre-Poste* mentions a copy of the 50 c. unpaid stamp *imperf*orate, explained to be a different stamp to that of the 1886, issued *imperf*orate.

Unpaid 50 st., sky-blue; *imperf*.

HOLLAND.—The 12½ c. unpaid stamp has now appeared in the new shade described last November.

Postage due. 12½ c., black and ultramarine.

MONTENEGRO.—A series of unpaid stamps is now in use. There are eight values, all probably quite uncalled for.

1	nov. red.
2	„ yellow-green.
3	„ orange.
5	„ olive-green.
10	„ violet.
20	„ ultramarine.
30	„ blue-green.
50	„ grey.

SERBIA.—Various contemporaries note a new issue; the portrait of the king (grown a little older) in an oval, the name on an arched scroll above, and the numerals in circles in the lower corners. "The word *para* (or *dinar*) in Russian, as on the early issues, is substituted for the word *poschta*, which figures on the more recent ones."—*Monthly Journal*. The colours remain unchanged, and the perforation gauges 13.

<i>Adhesives.</i>	5 para, green.
10	„ rose.
15	„ violet.
20	„ orange.
25	„ blue.
50	„ bistre.
1	dinar, lilac.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—*L'Intermédiaire de la Timbrologie* mentions the discovery of a copy of the current 12 c. imperforate.

Adhesive. 12 c., blue, imperforate.

BRAZIL.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 300 reis of the new type. The 100 reis Letter Card, described in November, is also now in use.

Adhesive. 300 reis, black and green.
Letter Cards. 100 reis, rose and blue on grey.

The *Metropolitan Philatelist* chronicles two new wrappers with stamps, etc., of the old design.

Wrappers. 40 reis on orange on buff.
60 „ on brown „

CHILE.—The *American Journal of Philately* has received a new official postcard, it bears the inscription, "TARJETA DE SERVICIO" "ADMINISTRACION PRINCIPAL DE CORREOS" "SANTIAGO DE CHILE" in three lines of capitals, "SEÑOR," and three lines for address.

Post Card. No value, blue on grey.

MEXICO.—*Le Timbre-Poste* states that the official stamp has appeared in a new colour.

Official Stamp. No value, carmine; perf. 11½.

PANAMA.—The surcharge of 10 c. on

50 c. noted last month exists *inverted*; there are several types of the surcharge, the chief difference being in the figure 1.

Adhesive. 10 c., black on 50 c., brown, surcharge *inverted*.

UNITED STATES.—The *Philatelic Journal of America* chronicles the dollar values of the new type. According to the description given the Bureau of Engraving and Printing are already beginning to confirm the remarks in our last number. "They are all beauties," says the *Philatelic Journal of America*.

The \$1 stamp is of the same design as the late 90 cents, but with the triangular additions, and an alteration of colour from orange to black. The \$2 bears a portrait of James Madison, and the \$5 a full-face portrait of John Marshall.

Adhesive. \$1, black, new type.
\$2, blue.
\$5, green.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINESE LOCAL ISSUES.—The ever increasing and palpably unnecessary eruption of these labels has called forth many expressions of disgust from both correspondents and philatelic friends, and we have decided that as far as this journal is concerned, we will be no party to extending the sale of this rubbish by giving it the advantage of publicity. With the exception of Shanghai, whose stamps have, to a certain extent, been locally used, and were undoubtedly, in former times, issued without regard to collectors, we shall henceforward decline to notice any Chinese Locals, and we cannot too earnestly warn collectors against investing their money in such utter trash. That our views are not unreasonable with regard to these issues will be evidenced by the following letter from Messrs. Whitfield, King, and Co., who write us:

"We entirely concur with your views as to dropping these Locals altogether. We have just received a sample set of new Chungking stamps, from 2 to 24 candarins, for the sale of which an agent has been appointed at Shanghai! These Chungking labels are altogether unofficial, being the private speculation of a single individual. We do not intend to buy any more Chinese Locals of any description, except those of Shanghai. We supply a great many collectors with all new issues as they appear, and most of them have now barred Chinese Locals. When the demand falls they will disappear like the Germans did; we never hear of any new German Locals now!

"On the other hand, China is to enter the Postal Union this year, and it is quite

possible that all the local posts in China will be extinguished. If this happens, there will certainly be a demand for the obsolete locals that were legitimately issued. Of the Chinese Locals issued up to latest advices, those of Foochow, Chungking, Ichang, and Wuhu are private speculations. All the others (Shanghai, Hankow, Amoy, Chinkiang, Chefoo, Tientsin, and Kewkiang) have been issued by the Municipal Councils of these places."

NATIVE INDIAN STATES.—*Faridkot*.—*Le Timbre-Poste* chronicles the current 1 rupee of India with surcharge "FARIDKOT" in black.

Adhesive. 1 rupee, green and rose.

Puttialla.—The *Monthly Journal* has received the 8 annas of India, in a shade of rose-lilac (normal, purple) surcharged "SERVICE PATIALA STATE" in three lines.

Adhesive. 8 annas, rose-lilac; surcharge black, "SERVICE."

Travancore.—A new value of $\frac{1}{2}$ chuckram has been added to the adhesives; it is on wove paper, perf. 12.

Adhesive. $\frac{1}{2}$ chuckram, mauve.

NYASSA.—The *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* has news from Lisbon that the set of stamps recently chronicled is entirely bogus.

We would that other speculative issues could be so ruled out, and find a more suitable end in the guise of mural decorations!

PERSIA.—*Le Coll. de Timbre-Poste* gives news of a 10 kran stamp; also of a wrapper, which we now add to our list of last month.

Adhesive. 10 krans, rose and gold.
Wrapper. 1 shahi, lilac on buff.

TRANSVAAL.—We have received the 1d. value in new type from Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co.

Adhesive. 1 penny, carmine.

TRINIDAD (PRINCIPALITY OF).—We have every reason to believe the set of adhesives, chronicled lately, to be a speculative issue. The island of this name is at present uninhabited, and we chronicled this set with great reluctance. As there are no inhabitants, the "stamps" are issued for the use of the gulls—indigenous and Philatelic!

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. DUKE ALFRED OF SAXE-COBURG GOTHA.

Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1894-95:

President—THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—R. PEARCE.

Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.

Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON.

R. EHRENBACH.

D. GARTH.

A. W. CHAMBERS.

E. B. EVANS.

T. WICKHAM JONES.

THE sixth meeting of the season 1894-95 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 14th December, 1894, at 7.30 p.m. The members present were the Vice-President, and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, D. Garth, Gordon-Smith, R. Ehrenbach, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, F. Ransom, H. J. Gillespie, J. W. Gillespie, J. G. Tolhurst, E. Lumley Cator, J. C. Potter, C. N. Biggs, A. A. Davis, C. J. Daun, G. B. Routledge, G. J. Hynes, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, W. T. Wilson, J. A. Tilleard, and T. Maycock. Mr. C. Portman Rubeck also attended as a visitor.

The chair having been taken by the Vice-President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. G. F. Bambridge, sending a portrait of the Honorary President, kindly forwarded by His Royal Highness for acceptance by the Society. The portrait was much admired by the members present, who expressed their gratification at the interest taken in the Society by His Royal Highness, and on the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by Mr. Gordon-Smith, it was resolved: "That the Honorary Secretary be directed to convey to the Honorary President, His Royal Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, the expression of the loyal and hearty thanks of the Society for the portrait kindly presented by His Royal Highness."

Amongst the other correspondence read was a letter from Captain Norris Newman, written from Buluwayo, in which mention was made of the fact that the authorities had under consideration a scheme for altering the colours of the various issues of their stamps, and that possibly the types and dies would also be changed.

Letters of resignation of membership from Mr. John Jacobs and Mr. T. Vasmer were also read, and the resignations were directed to be accepted with regret.

Mr. F. R. Fraser, proposed by Mr. G. J. Hynes, and seconded by the Secretary, was duly elected a member of the Society; and on the motion of Mr. Oldfield, seconded by Mr. Hynes, it was resolved: "That the Annual Dinner of the Society be held on a convenient day in the month of February next, and that a Committee, consisting of Messrs. T. Wickham-Jones, D. Garth, and C. N. Biggs, be requested to undertake the arrangement of the necessary details."

In pursuance of notice previously given Mr. Nankivell called attention to the question of the measurement of perforations, and moved "That this meeting is of opinion that steps should be taken to ensure uniformity in the system adopted in the measurement of perforations, and that a Committee be appointed to consider the matter, together with the general question of Philatelic measurements, and to report thereon at a subsequent meeting."

After some discussion, in which many of the members present took part, the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach, was carried; and on the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by the Assistant Secretary, it was resolved: "That Mr. Gordon-Smith, Mr. Nankivell, and Mr. Ehrenbach, be appointed a Committee to consider and report on the matters referred to in Mr. Nankivell's motion."

The remaining business of the evening consisted of the revision of the Society's reference list of the Stamps of Baden, which was proceeded with and adjourned for completion.

Amongst other stamps produced for inspection at this meeting, Mr. Ehrenbach showed an entire unused sheet of the 6 cuartos Spanish stamp of the issue of 1850, bearing an official endorsement dated 3rd June, 1850, to the effect that the stamps were sent to the Post-office for use by the

Postmaster, for purposes of comparison on the occasion of the issue coming into general use.

THE seventh meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 28th December, 1894, at 7.30 p.m. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. E. D. Bacon occupied the chair, the following members also being present: Messrs. D. Garth, F. Ransom, R. Meyer, R. Ehrenbach, G. B. Routledge, E. Lumley Cator, G. J. Hynes, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, T. Maycock, and J. A. Tilleard.

After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the receipt from Mr. Gremmell, for the Society's Library, of his work, "Minor varieties of Postage Stamps and Envelopes," and from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Limited, of their annual Philatelic Diary, were directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. E. D. E. von Weeman, of New South Wales, proposed by Mr. W. T. Wilson, and seconded by the Secretary, was duly elected a member of the Society.

On the motion of the Secretary (in pursuance of notice previously given), seconded by Mr. Bacon, it was resolved, after some discussion as to the best means to be taken for securing a sufficient attendance on the settlement of the Society's Reference Lists, that Article 29 of the Statutes be amended by the addition of the following words: "Except for the settling of the Society's Reference Lists of stamps, for which purpose three members shall form a quorum."

Mr. F. Ransom then read a paper entitled "The suggested methods for the restoration of colour to postage stamps." In referring to the recent papers on this subject by the Earl of Kingston and Mr. Willett, Mr. Ransom called attention to the fact, that as in each case the chemicals suggested for use were powerful oxidizing agents, the so-called oxidation of stamps was technically a misnomer. In illustration of his observations Mr. Ransom performed a number of interesting experiments in so-called oxidizing and deoxidizing of stamps.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Garth, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Ransom for his valuable paper, which it is proposed to publish in the *London Philatelist*.

At the eighth meeting held on Friday, the 4th January, 1895, the business of the evening consisted entirely of the settling of the Society's Reference Lists of the Stamps of Heligoland, which was proceeded with and adjourned for completion.

The ninth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 11th January, 1895, at 7.30 p.m., and the following members were in attendance, viz., Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, H. R. Oldfield, G. B. Routledge, W. Silk, jun., J. G. Tolhurst, E. Lumley Cator, T. Wickham-Jones, D. Garth, R. Pearce, T. Maycock, and J. A. Tilleard.

Mr. Bacon having taken the chair, in the absence of the President and Vice-President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Amongst the correspondence read was a letter from Mr. Willett, announcing his desire to resign his membership, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with very great regret.

Mr. James Salter-Whiter, proposed by Mr. A. A. Davis, and seconded by the Secretary, and Mr. C. Portman Ruback, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary, were elected members of the Society.

Mr. Wickham-Jones, on behalf of the Dinner Committee, explained the arrangements which were being made, and that it

was proposed to hold the dinner on the 26th February.

Mr. Bacon then read a paper communicated to the Society by Mr. Charles H. Mottram, entitled, "Remarks on the early postal rates of New Zealand, with notes on the first issued stamps." Mr. Mottram, who was a collector as far back as 1862, and resided for some time in New Zealand, in the first part of his paper gave extracts from an early Proclamation, which fixed the rate for letters at twopence the half-ounce, and he was able to shew that at the time postage stamps were first introduced there was apparently no use for a one penny value. The second portion of the paper was devoted to the first stamps printed in the Colony, and from copies of certain Government statistics, which were produced, Mr. Mottram argued that the supply of "star" watermarked paper sent out with the plates was not at first made use of, but that the earliest local printing was that on the blue wove unwatermarked foolscap papers. On the motion of Mr. Garth, seconded by Mr. Bacon, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Mottram, who attended the meeting as a visitor. Mr. Mottram, in acknowledging the compliment, stated that he should be pleased to write a further paper for the Society on the split varieties of the one shilling value, of which he possesses specimens, and on other points, an offer which was accepted with acclamation. He also gave his formal consent to the paper being published in *The London Philatelist*.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. WILSON, Esq.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

Nov. 1st. Paper—Queensland, 1860-80.

Mr. W. G. Walton.

THIS paper was illustrated by Mr. Walton from his own collection, which contained some fine sets of perfs. of the early issues. Messrs. Wilson, Pimm, and others showed very good selections, including imperfs. on originals, unused blocks of lithographs, besides a large number of script and Roman type watermarks.

Nov. 15th. Display—United States.

The chief attraction was Mr. W. B. Avery's

superb and unique collection, including most of the Postmasters' stamps and locals on originals. In these, as well as in the general issues, one page is devoted to each variety, which is shown used and unused, in all shades, in singles, pairs, strips, and blocks where obtainable. "Providence" and other varieties were shown in complete sheets. The pages of the early issues 5 c. (in all varieties), 30 c., 90 c., 1869 90 c., inverted centres of 1869, with departmentals, newspapers, etc., complete, were specially admired.

As Mr. Avery had also brought with him his special collection of British North America, and his general collection of Africa, Australia, and America, most of the routine business was postponed, and the remainder of the evening devoted to them. British North America was shown complete in all shades, varieties of paper, pairs, and blocks in many cases, complete sheets in a fair number of varieties; but what attracted most attention was the fine range of shades found on the pages of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia 1s.; the superb copies of 12d. Canada (wove and laid) with some very fine pages of the other pence varieties, including some scores of fine copies of the carmine and orange vermillions of Newfoundland.

In the general collection Mr. Avery has, with very few exceptions, an unused copy of every variety. It includes such rarities as 1d. and 2d. Post-office Mauritius, first issue Reunion, tête-bêche and rouletted pairs of Transvaals, British Guiana complete except 2 c. rose; most of the varieties of type being represented by reconstructed sheets, as was the case in the early issues of the Dominican Republic.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Avery, which was most suitably and generously responded to.

W. A. S. Westoby, Esq. (Folkestone), W. C. Tyrrell, Esq. (Ludlow), Howard Weston, Esq. (Birmingham), were elected members. Two applications were postponed. Subscriptions were voted to the *London Philatelist* and *Vertraul's Korr*, p. V.

December 6th.

R. H. Hunter, Esq. (Ottawa), J. Figuet (Paris), were elected members.

Display—Great Britain.

The President exhibited a fine lot of

unused, nearly every variety being shown in nice shades, singles, pairs, strips, and blocks.

Messrs. Pimm, Walton, and Johnson showed collections of used and unused, including reconstructed plates of various values; perhaps the most interesting being the separate plates of the dies, perfs., and papers of the early 1d. reds.

December 20th.

C. Manby, Esq. (Bath), Dr. G. H. Hart (Birmingham), were elected members. Resolved to purchase W. Brown's *Strait Settlements* for library. Votes of thanks were given to Messrs. T. Buhl & Co. for complete files of *Philatelic Record* and *Stamp News* for 1894; C. G. Vogel for *Int. B. Offertenblatt*; H. Hilckes for *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*; L. M. Staebler for *Canadian Philatelist*.

Mr. W. Pimm read his paper on Ceylon, illustrating it by means of his own ample and fine collection.

On December 21st the September packet was returned, and next day all amounts due to members were sent out. The last three packets were £167 3s. 6d., £177 15s. 9d., £202 14s. 11½d., and, with the last one, a nice packet (£118 7s. 8d. net cash) was included from the Canadian Society. It has also been arranged that a packet from the Canadian Society shall be circulated each month.

January 3rd, 1895.

The Hon. Secretary read his paper on South Australia, illustrating issues, shades, watermarks, and papers from his own collection, arranged according to the *Handbook on South Australia*, and pointed out several varieties not chronicled therein.

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—OLIVER FIRTH.

Hon. Secretary—W. H. SCOTT, 1, Piccadilly, Bradford.

THE monthly meeting of this Society was held on Friday evening, the 4th January, 1895. There was a good number of members present, the President (Mr. Oliver Firth), occupying the chair. The subject of debate was "Specialism *v.* General Collecting." This was opened by the President in a very

able speech, in which he dealt with the question from all points of view, after which a general discussion took place, in which several members joined, and a very enjoyable evening was spent. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 5th February, 1895.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—A. DE WORMS.

THE fourth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, December 3rd, at 7.45 p.m. Present—Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. W. Gillespie, E. E. Manwaring, O. Pfenninger, W. T. Willett, R. J. Woodman, C. R. Morse, A. de Worms, and one visitor, Mr. A. Edwards. The President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Manchester Philatelic Society, stating that a "Federation Exchange" of stamps was about to be formed between several provincial societies, and asking if this Society would join. The matter having been discussed at some length, it was agreed that the Society should join the Exchange. The Librarian announced the receipt of a large and valuable donation to the Society's library from Mr. Willett, consisting of twenty-five volumes, many being important philatelic works. Mr. Pfenninger proposed that a hearty vote of thanks should be accorded to Mr. Willett for his gift, which was seconded by the President, and unanimously carried. Mr. Pfenninger read a long

and interesting paper on the unpaid letter stamps of Switzerland, which he illustrated by showing a large number of specimens of each variety. He also gave an account of the different currencies which were in use about the time when stamps were first issued in Switzerland. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Pfenninger for his paper.

The fifth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, December 17th, at 7.45 p.m. Present—Messrs. W. T. Willett, J. W. Gillespie, O. Pfenninger, E. E. Manwaring, H. Davis, R. J. Woodman, and A. de Worms. In the absence of the President and Vice-President Mr. W. T. Willett took the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported the receipt of the annual report of the Oldham Philatelic Society. Mr. Woodman exhibited his collection of British North America, and made a few remarks on the same. The Secretary also showed some fine specimens of the early issues of these countries.

JOHANNESBURG PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

MINUTES of ordinary general meeting, held at the Y.M.C.A.'s buildings, November 14th, 1894, Mr. A. Landau presiding. There were fourteen members present.

The minutes of the last meeting being read and confirmed, the Secretary read the correspondence.

Mr. Landau handed in his report of the committee's action in the matter of the proposed exhibition, to be held under the auspices of the Society in May, 1895.

The Librarian reported the donation to the Society from Mr. Klagsbrun, in the shape of several books for the library.

A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Klagsbrun for his donation.

Mr. Justice Cohen briefly gave a report of the progress he had made in raising a fund for the purchase of the Society's album.

Mr. Klagsbrun proposed that copies of the Million petition be obtained, and signatures be canvassed by the members.

This was carried unanimously.

The Secretary then read the proposed programme for the exhibition, which was carried with certain amendments.

Mr. Klagsbrun proposed that the question as to whether the Exhibition Committee carry out the programme or not, be left till the next meeting.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

Hon. Secretary—W. DORNING BECKTON.

THE fourth meeting of the Session was held at the Blackfriars' Hotel, on Friday, November 9th, 1894. Present—19 members. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Abbott took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary read the correspondence. Mr. Pellew was elected a member.

Mr. W. W. Munn read the first portion of his observations upon the adhesives of the United States, pointing out, *inter alia*, the means by which the originals could be distinguished from the reprints. He also referred to the recent discovery of the so-called provisional of the Confederate States, viz. the United States 3 c. 1861 issue, perf. 12, surcharged C.S.A. Mr. Munn pointed out that the stamp so surcharged was mentioned as being on the original envelopes, postmarked, February to May, 1861, whereas the particular 3 c. stamp (perf. 12) was not issued, according

to Tiffany, until 14 August, 1861. Several fine collections of U.S. were exhibited.

THE fifth meeting of the Session was held at the Blackfriars' Hotel, on Friday, November 23rd, 1894. Present—14 members. The Vice-President in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Committee reported upon the desirability of forming a Federation of the leading Provincial Societies for the purpose of exchange. Mr. Duerst, on behalf of the Sub-Committee, read the draft of the suggested rules. These rules were considered, revised, and adopted.

Resolved: That the other Societies be approached with a view to ascertaining their views on the matter. Mr. Munn read the continuation of his paper on the adhesives of the United States, for which he received a hearty vote of thanks.

W. DORNING BECKTON.

DAISY BANK,
SWINTON PARK.

THE NEW YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ROOM—I, EVERETT BUILDING, 25, ANN STREET.

President—FREDERICK DE COPPETT.

Secretary—FREDERICK AUGUSTUS NAST.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Society was held on Monday evening, December 17th, at its rooms—No. 25, Ann Street.

Present—Messrs. De Coppet, Scott, Dietz, Perozo, Gregory, Clotz, Herrick, Davidson, Hobby, Terrett, Holmes, Hunter, and Nast.

The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved. The following gentlemen, candidates for membership in the Society, having been approved unanimously by the Governing Committee, were unanimously elected members of the Society: Dr. Frank Abbott, jr., 49, West 57th Street, N.Y.; F. W. Ayer, Bangor, Me.; E. H. Osborne, 26, Cortlandt Street, N.Y.; H. J. Duveen, Hotel Savoy, N.Y.

A communication from Mr. De Vinne was read and ordered to be laid on the table, and the Secretary was instructed to communicate with Mr. De Vinne.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

"The Society during the past year has flourished. The number of members has increased; the number of papers read was one more than during the preceding year; the attendance has been gratifying, and, with the exception of the Monday evening social meetings, has been all that we could expect.

"The plan of having the regular monthly meeting on the third Monday of each month has met with the approval of the members,

and it has been determined to continue the same time during the coming year.

"The six papers read during the year were as follows :

"December, 1893. 'The Hale Local Stamp.' By Mr. Gregory.

February, 1894. 'The 5 c., black, New York.' By Mr. Hunter.

April, 1894. 'Double Surcharge on Mexican Stamps.' By Mr. De Coppet.

May, 1894. 'Guadeloupe.' By Mr. Herrick.

June, 1894. 'Commemorative Stamps.' By Mr. Nast.

November, 1894. 'Macao.' By Mr. Herrick.

"These papers were ordered to be printed in *The Metropolitan Philatelist*.

"The Society starts out with a larger list of members than ever before, with a surplus in the bank, and it is hoped that members who are in a position to do so will prepare papers and read the same before the Society. It has always been our experience that the knowledge of a paper to be read before a meeting of the Society brings an increased attendance."

F. A. NAST, *Secretary*.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Receipts.

To Balance, January 1st, 1894	. \$125.11
" Dues during the year	. 277.50
" Entrance Fees	. 50.00
" Rent of Room	. 90.00
" Interests	. 7.45
	<u>\$550.06</u>

Expenses.

By Printing and Postages	. \$21.24
" Rent	. 360.00
" Janitor Fees	. 16.50
" Gas	. 6.49
" Missing Papers	. 3.50
" Fixing Gas Fixtures	. 1.00
" Correspondenzblatt	. 1.00
	<u>\$409.73</u>

Balance on hand . . . \$140.33

In Fulton and Market National Bank	. \$120.99
Cash on Hand	. 19.34
	<u>\$143.33</u>

HENRY CLOTZ, *Treasurer*.

The Secretary's report was presented and duly accepted.

The Treasurer's report was presented, and

the chair appointed Messrs. De Coppet and Scott as Auditing Committee on the same.

A printed copy of the report was ordered to be sent to each member of the Society.

It being the last meeting of the year, the election of new officers was taken up, and the following gentlemen were duly elected by ballot without any dissenting votes :

Mr. Thorne, President; Mr. Herrick, Vice-President; Mr. Nast, Secretary; Mr. Clotz, Treasurer; Messrs. De Coppet, Gregory, Scott, Hunter, and Terrett, Members of the Governing Committee.

The subject of papers for the succeeding year was then taken up, and after a general discussion it was concluded that the best plan would be to arrange for the monthly paper a year ahead. The members of the Society are therefore requested to communicate with the President, or with any member of the Governing Committee, and state whether they will agree to read a paper during the coming year; and if so, give the subject of the paper and the date at which they would prefer to present the same to the Society.

Mr. Gregory moved a vote of thanks to Mr. De Coppet, our retired President, in a speech which voiced the sentiments of all members, present or absent. A vote of thanks was given unanimously.

Mr. Herrick then read his paper on "Tahiti," copiously illustrating the same by the exhibition of his collection. A vote of thanks was passed for his very interesting paper, and Mr. Herrick was requested to prepare the same for publication in *The Metropolitan Philatelist*.

The meetings of the Society will be continued during 1895 on the same plan as in the past year. The regular monthly meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month, with the exception of the months of July and August, when no meetings will be held. The weekly social meetings will be continued during at least two Mondays in the month, the use of the room on the remaining Monday being given to the Dresden Society, the members of which in New York City are largely composed of members of our own Society. Mr. Terrett was appointed to hold the meeting on Monday, January 7th, 1895. Mr. Kerfoot will read a paper at the regular January (21st) meeting on the "Die Varieties of the 1851-61 U.S. Stamps."

F. A. NAST, *Secretary*.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT.

Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—A. LEVY.

A DISPLAY of the Stamps of Victoria was held on December 6th, when much was to be learnt from the Vice-President's collection, he having made a speciality of the varieties of perforation. Unfortunately he had not been able to get his stamps arranged in exhibition form. One of his best stamps was undoubtedly a brilliant copy of the 6d., orange, with serpentine perforation. Capt. Stockdale, Messrs. Mayne, Milton, Harvey, and Levy also exhibited their collections,

some of them being fairly complete. Among the more noticeable stamps were the 5s., blue and yellow, 6d., beaded oval, 4d., star rouletted, and an unused copy of the 2d., wmk. threepence, both these latter being very fine. Mr. Harvey also sent a small contribution; Messrs. Barrett and Coppin, who have fine collections of this colony, were unfortunately unable to send their stamps. It is proposed to hold an exhibition of the Stamps of Great Britain in January.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.*

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

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THE LATE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, AND PHILATELY.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—On behalf of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch of Russia, I beg of you in your next number to contradict the report which has appeared in English and Continental papers that His Highness will receive the grand collection of the late Czar.

In the first place the late Czar never had any great collection. Secondly, the person of Mr. Petroloff, who, by the report of those papers, worked for years at the Czar's

collection, never existed. The story of a Hamburg dealer, who supplied His Majesty with stamps, is wrong. The Czar had in a printed album a small collection of stamps, but no rarities among them.

I remain, yours truly,

JAS. F. SHARPLES.

VILLA GARBARINO,
3, SAN REMO, ITALY,
January 3rd, 1895.

[We have much pleasure in inserting this official *dementi*, to which we have alluded elsewhere in this issue.—E.D.]

The Market.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

The sale of Jan. 10th and 11th consisted of the remainder of the collection of Mr. Vernon Roberts, of Manchester, and included some fine Australian and British, but the *pièce de resistance* was constituted in the Cape stamps, which Mr. Roberts had always affected. Good prices were realized wherever the specimens were fine; this being especially the case in the Sydney Views, and in some instances "records" were achieved. The more interesting lots included.

British Guiana, 1862, 1 c., border of crossed ovals, No. 1 on plate	£	s.	d.
Ditto, ditto, 1 c., border of grapes, No. 21 on plate	7	7	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 c., No. 22 on plate	6	0	0
New South Wales, Sydneys, Plate I., 1d., red, Nos. 9 and 10, pair on entire letter sheet	5	10	0
Ditto, Plate II., 1d., carmine, Nos. 6, 7, 8, and 9 (No. 7 trees omitted, No. 8 hill unshaded) strip of 4 on envelope	14	0	0
Ditto, Plate I., 2d., deep blue, a superb specimen, dated 1 January, 1850	10	0	0
Ditto, Plate IV., 2d., blue, fine strip of 4	9	10	0
Great Britain, 1840, 2d., no lines, a superb pair, fine colour, unused	12	0	0
Ditto, 2½d., Plate III., watermark "Orb," unused	3	0	0
Ditto, 3d., Plate III., secret dot, horizontal pair, unused	4	4	0
Great Britain, 4d., rose on thick azure safety paper, watermark small garter, a magnificent specimen, unused	14	0	0
Ditto, 8d., red-brown, unused	5	15	0
Ditto, 9d., bistre, Plate III., hair lines	20	0	0
Ditto, 5s., Plate IV., on bluish, unused, very fine	7	7	0
Ditto, £1, brownish-violet, wmk. "Maltese Cross," unused	20	10	0

Great Britain, £1, purple-brown, wmk. "Orbs," unused; very fine	£	s.	d.
Ditto, £5, on bluish paper, unused	10	0	0
Ditto, the V.R., fine specimen	14	14	0
Ditto, Mulready, wrappers, 2d., blue, an entire unused sheet of 12	11	0	0
Labuan, provisional, 6 c. on 16 c., red and blue	5	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 6 c. on 16 c. (1st issue), black on blue, entire unused sheet	14	14	0
Mauritius, post paid, 2d., blue, early, state of plate, very fine	5	5	0
Montserrat, CA, 4d., blue, poor	3	10	0
New South Wales, Sydneys, Plate I., 1d., red, Nos. 24 and 25, superb pair, very early impressions	10	10	0
Ditto Plate II., 1d., carmine, fine pair on laid paper	6	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 1d., carmine, ditto	5	5	0
Ditto, ditto 3d., green, fine pair on bluish paper, Nos. 14 and 15	5	5	0
Ditto, Laureated, 1d., lake, fine pair on laid paper, one with error, "WALE"	4	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d., blue, stars in corners, partly made up plate, 43 stamps	30	0	0
Cape of Good Hope, wood blocks, 1d., red, fine	5	0	0
1d., carmine red, pair, very	7	0	0
1d., brick red, block of 4	16	0	0
4d., red, error, fair specimen	40	0	0
4d., light blue, fine	4	10	0
1d., light blue, error, very lightly postmarked, small tears in bottom corners	47	0	0
Cape, engraved, 1/- emerald green, fine; unused	4	4	0
Peru, medio peso, rose, fine	8	10	0
(worth £15, 10 years ago!)			
Tasmania. 1/- red, straight cut roulette	5	5	0
Tobago, CA, 6d., ochre, unused	8	0	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

The forty-fourth sale, held on December 17th last, included :

Afghanistan, 1293, value in tablet,	£	s.	d.
Sunar, black, cut sq.	4	5	0
Ditto, 1290, shahi, purple, pair unused	8	0	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d., vermilion, early plate	3	13	0
Newfoundland, 1s., orange-vermilion	5	5	0
Mexico, $\frac{1}{2}$ of 4 reales, red on white, used on piece of original	2	10	0
Ditto, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the 8 reales, black on brown, used on entire original	2	8	0
United States, 1869, 90 c.	2	0	0
Queensland, 1st issue, 2d., deep blue, imperf.	3	0	0

The sale of January 7th :

Mauritius, 1s., vermilion, strip of three	3	0	0
Peru, 1 dinero, green, arms reversed, pair	2	2	0
N. S. W. Sydney, 1d., deep carmine, on laid paper, pair, one with bale undated	3	7	6
W. Australia, 1st issue, 2d. brown, on red	2	6	0

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON.

The following are a few of the good things disposed of at the sale of December 19th, 1894.

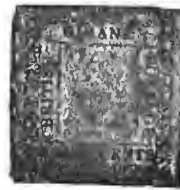
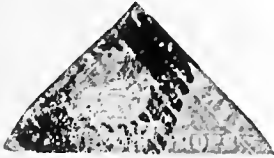
Mauritius, 1858, 1d., scarlet, unused	4	12	0
Straits Settlements, 96 c., grey, complete sheet	4	10	0
Newfoundland, 4d., carmine, fair	2	8	0
Ditto, 1s., carmine-orange, fair	10	5	0
New South Wales, laureated, 2d., blue, star with six rays	3	12	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d., unused, early state of plate	7	10	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie, red-brown	8	5	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow	5	0	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

Their 63rd sale was held at the "Monico" on January 1st, and included :

Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf., fair	6	0	0
W. Australian, 6d., bronze	3	0	0
Mauritius, 1848, 1d., vermilion, early state of plate, fair	3	3	0
Ditto, Britannia, 1s., yellow-green, imperf., unsevered strip of 3 on original	2	10	0
Newfoundland, 6d., carmine-vermilion	3	2	0
Virgin Islands, 1st issue, 6d., rose, perf. 15, unused	4	15	0
United States, 1869, 90 c.	2	0	0



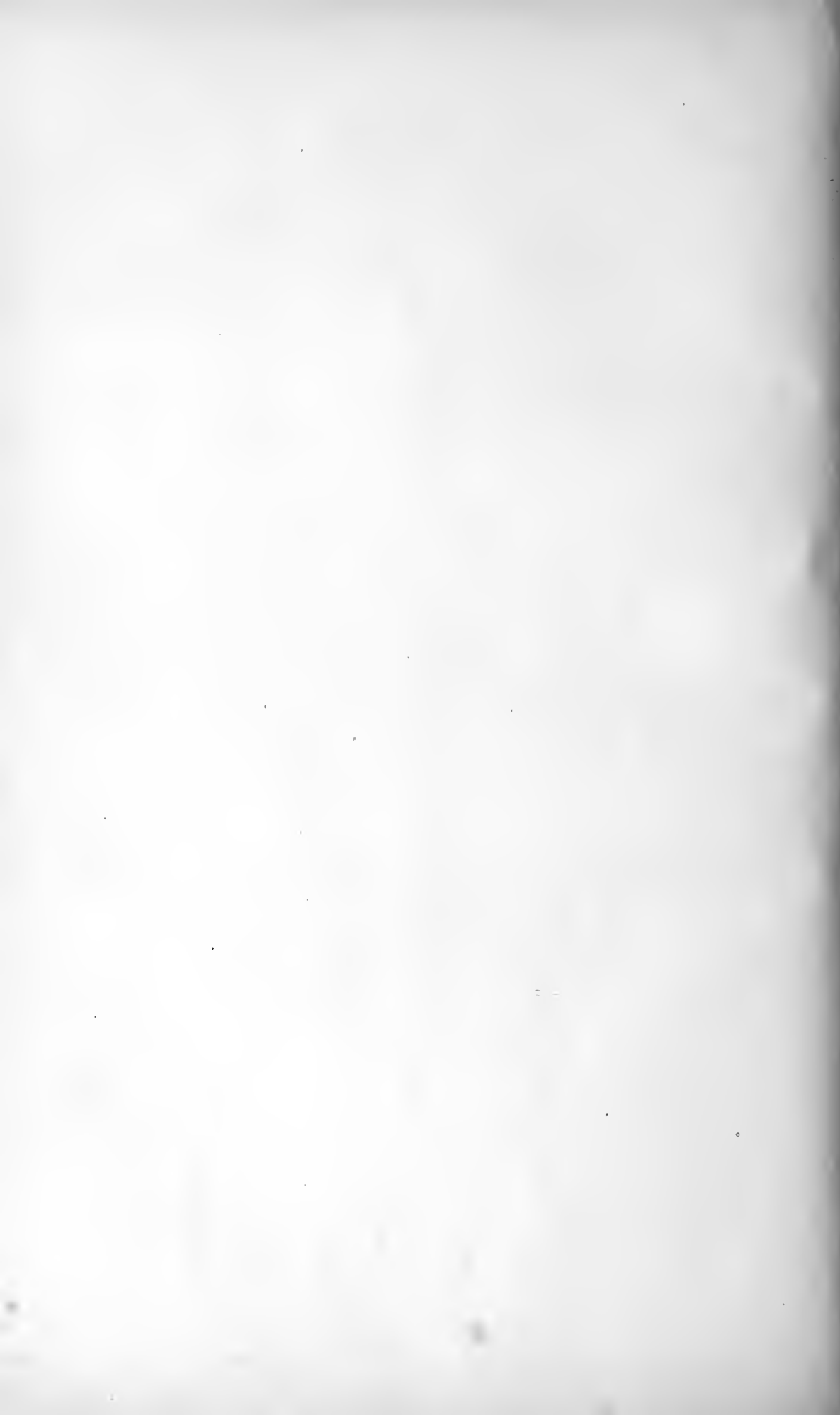






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THE
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IV.

FEBRUARY, 1895.

No. 38.

The Presentation to Mr. Douglas Garth.



NOT the least pleasing incident of the dinner of the London Philatelic Society on the 26th of this month (elsewhere recorded), was the presentation to the ex-Honorary Secretary of a handsome piece of old English silver, subscribed for by a large number of his fellow members, in token of their appreciation of Mr. Garth's able and arduous services. It is well known that Mr. Garth was most reluctant to give up the work, toilsome as it had become, and it was only owing to his physical inability to carry out his many duties that he tendered his resignation as hon. secretary. The gratitude of every member of the Society is due not only to him, but all past and present holders of the office. Nor could any more practical mode, as on previous occasions, serve to place on record the debt due by the other members of the Society, to those gentlemen who have so ungrudgingly given their valuable time for the benefit of their *confrères*. The hon. secretary is absolutely the man at the wheel in almost all institutions, and the London Society has been singularly fortunate in the continued possession of members, whose ability has only been equalled by their courtesy and readiness to undertake this really onerous office.

It should be borne in mind that these duties are, with the rapid growth of the Society, continually increasing, and it can only be a question of time when some effort should be made not to unduly load the willing horse, but to subdivide as far as possible the work. A wise step has already been taken in the appointment of an assistant hon. secretary, but there is room for still further improvement, notably in the very important part of the Society's duties relating to the compilation of their work, which now falls on a very few shoulders.

High Watermark.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 1895.

BY M. P. CASTLE.



NO reasonable doubt can be felt but that the above expression aptly determines the financial position arrived at during the auction held by Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper in London, on the 30th and 31st of last month. Whether the ebb and flow of the Philatelic tide will hereafter efface the present record remains to be seen. It is certainly probable. I have therefore thought it not inopportune to place before my fellow collectors a *précis* of this important sale, and of the possible lesson to be gleaned therefrom.

The aggregate amount of this sale was no less than £2606 11s. 6d. The total number of lots averaged £5 10s. each. The forty-six highest-priced lots aggregated £1158 11s., averaging £25 per stamp.

It will be seen therefore that in point of value achieved, as in general importance and rarity of the individual lots, this auction has attained a record in this country, and I think it may be of interest if I briefly enumerate the more salient items in the programme, in the form of a running commentary, leaving the more ordinary ones to be noticed under the usual columns elsewhere in this journal.

The accompanying illustrations of the leading rarities, which have been kindly supplied to me by Messrs. Ventom, Bull, & Cooper, will give a good idea of the condition of the rarer stamps.

Saxony, 3 pfennige, red, vertical pair, £19.

This was a very fine vertical pair, with circular obliteration on the letters, but the price is far in advance of anything I have yet heard of.

Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, blue, "arms," unused, £28.

Not in perfect condition, or it would have realised far more. The paper was very white, as if it had been soaked in water, and although undoubtedly unused the colour was, perhaps owing to oxidation, uneven.

Tuscany, 3 lire, dark yellow, £30.

A medium specimen of moderate margins; hence at present rates fully paid for.

Moldavia, 27 paras, black on rose, £21.

A damaged copy, there being a rubbing away of the paper across the nose of the bull; hence the price.

Moldavia, 108 paras, blue on pink, unused, £35.

This was not spotless, having two small ink stains, but an undoubtedly unused specimen with large margins, and of a deep colour; even at this price it was worth the money.

Spain, Madrid, 3 cuartos, unused, £17.
 „ 1851, 2 reales, red, unused, £32.
 „ 1852, 2 reales, red, unused, £20.
 „ 1853, 2 reales, red, unused, £13.

A brilliant series, all in matchless condition as to margin, colour, and general condition, the first three having the original gum ; hence the record prices. These are exactly the stamps that may, to those who have not seen their beauty, induce the payment of approximate amounts for other specimens of a very different quality.

Switzerland, Geneva, the double stamp, unsevered, £19.

Not a perfect copy.

Vaud, 4c., black and red, £13 13s.

A poor copy.

Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperforate, unused, £130.

This is indeed a record ! The 4d. Ceylon unused is, however, one of the rarest stamps in the world in unused imperforate condition, and I never remember to have seen but two others thus. This specimen was immaculate, having fine margins all round, and I am glad to think it has gone to adorn the pages of the finest Ceylon collection extant.

Cape, wood blocks, error, 1d., blue, *cut*, £12.

„ „ „ 4d., red, £52.

„ „ „ 1d., blue, in a pair with the 4d. blue, £65.

As prices go, the last lot, though not perfect, was fine and cheap. The difference in value between fine and damaged stamps is markedly shown by the above prices.

Natal, 1st issue, 9d., blue, £26.

A superb copy, very large, good impression, and distinct postmark. Although a big price, such condition has hardly any limit in value.

Mauritius, post paid, 2d., blue, £92.

Once more a record price, and with a vengeance. I do not consider this a true price, however—see my remarks subsequently. The stamp was simply superb, the impression being of an intense dark blue-black colour, every line standing out, and in fact in general appearance closely resembling the Post-Office. As to margins and general condition it was irreproachable, and certainly justified a big price. Still if (as I say later) A or B had been away, another tale would have been told.

Mauritius, large fillet, 2d., blue, £35.

This was a very full price. It is a good stamp, but hardly, in my opinion, rarer than the *very early* copies of the ordinary “native.” The *earliest*, like the preceding, are of course far rarer.

Réunion, 1st. issue, 15c., black on bluish, unused original, £50.

A good specimen sold at full price ; but these stamps are under-estimated in relation to other modern prices. Surely they are twice as rare as the 1s. Newfoundland.

Canada, 12d., black, £29.

A poor specimen.

New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, unused, £26.

A superb copy in mint state, but the price is beyond its worth in my opinion. Allowing for its matchless condition it cannot be worth quite this sum.

New Brunswick, 1s., violet, unused, £40.

This stamp was far more worthy of the high price attained than its companion 6d. In used condition it is at least five times as valuable, and the brilliancy of the colour, the wide margins, and presence of the full original gum, justified the record that it attained.

Nova Scotia, 1s., violet, unused, £32.

The same remarks apply to this grand specimen of the cold violet shade, that is at least as rare as the New Brunswick shilling.

British Guiana, 1st issue, 4c., black on yellow, £40.

A square cut copy, but damaged and repaired at one corner—beyond the circular impression. Cut square copies of this issue are practically disappearing from public view, and fine copies can hardly go too high. The above price is hardly its true value.

Buenos Ayres, 4 pesos, red, unused, £17 10s.

„ 5 pesos, orange, unused, £33.

„ „ „ used, £20.

Superb copies, all the prices realised show that genuine old stamps of any country are “sound stock.”

Columbia, 20c., carmine, unused, £18.

Same remark as applies to last lot; but this stamp is ten times as rare *unused* as the shilling values of British North America.

Antioquia, 1st issue, 10c., lilac, £21.

Well worth it. This is a stamp that will some day go to a big price.

New South Wales, “Sydney Views,” plate i., 1d., red on bluish, unused, £15.

„ „ „ plate iv., 2d., blue, unused, £16 16s.

The 1d. on the hard bluish paper is perhaps the least difficult to find among the Sydneys unused. The 2d. was remarkably cheap, as it was a good copy. This again is—plate for plate—far rarer than the usual “forty pounders.”

Queensland, 1st issue, 1s., violet, imperf., £25.

The margins of the stamp were certainly wider than any I have ever seen, and I fail to see how it ever could have been perforated.

New Zealand, wmk. N.Z., 1d., brown, £35.

This is a full price. The discovery is a new one, but I have heard of at least six copies, and it will probably be found ultimately to be less scarce than other well known New Zealand varieties.

The deductions to be drawn, or lessons learnt, from a consideration of the foregoing and other items are brief, but pregnant to those who study the signs of the times.

First. The entrustment of bids to large amounts on single stamps that have not been personally examined by the purchaser, to any agent, however honourable, business-like, or cautious, is a transaction of doubtful wisdom; while the issue of a commission with an unlimited bid is an act of rashness, that should only be committed by a Philatelist from Colney Hatch or Hanwell. If I were taking a commission I would, in the interests of my client and myself, absolutely refuse to accept any unlimited instruction.

Secondly. That, irrespective of the excellence of the lots, the actual prices attained do not necessarily represent the realisable value of stamps. The spirit of competition carried to the extent of uncalculated rivalry, the egotism, perhaps unconscious, that likes to attract the eyes of the public in buying, the passing excitement of the moment, and the combination of any two of the foregoing motives, frequently cause lots to be sold at far higher prices than are deserved, or would be paid in the earlier hours of the day over the counters of any of our leading dealers. It is obvious that if, from these causes or any one of them, false prices are paid the evil would soon correct itself, and the buyer at high prices under such conditions would read his lesson in the epitome of prices attained at the next or future sales. Unfortunately, however, this is often not the case, and hence is constituted one of the dangers that, pushed on *ad infinitum* by reckless buyers on the one hand, and unscrupulous or grasping vendors on the other, must inevitably tend to a Philatelic financial crisis that might cripple the pursuit for years.

To explain my meaning, I will take the case of almost any stamp—say any well-known variety, of which the average market price of a fair copy for the past few months has been £6, unused. At a particular sale, say of a private collector, who has made the stamps of this country his speciality, a marvellously fine specimen of this stamp is exposed for sale. The copy is absolutely immaculate, unused, with full gum, perfect freshness of colour, large margin, and, in fact, with nothing to be desired. A, B, and C attend the sale, all these desiring to complete their collection of this country, and to achieve the *comble de bonheur* by securing this copy. Each having spent a large sum on this particular country, argues, “I have spent a lot on these stamps, and am to the good on them; by taking this stamp I shall be setting a corner-stone on the edifice, and can well afford to pay more than it is worth; I shall go up to £10 for it.” The usual and pleasant chit-chat of the auction room reveals the fact that there are several “going for” this stamp. A, B, and C each think, “I must go one more,” and one or more of them name mentally £12 as their limit. Carried away by the feelings that I have previously alluded to, the lot is ultimately knocked down to B, almost to his own breathless surprise and the applause of the multitude, at £17 10s. od.

Now for the sequel. Collectors or dealers, C, E, D, F, etc., each have copies of this stamp—“fair,” or a fine copy, except that it had small margins, or, perhaps, “poor” (indeed!) Each holder, in natural self-protected interest, sees the record attained, and says, “By Jove, how these stamps have gone up; I shan’t sell mine under £10”—and doesn’t!

“Volume III.” The same stamp, in perfect condition, again is put up at a later sale, and B and C compete, perfectly “safe” in the knowledge that it fetched £17 10s. before. It is bought with the further competition of X, Y, and Z (who now understand the market!) at £22 10s. C, E, D, and F also increase their prices for inferior and “fair” copies to about £20. Repeat the experience and “serve again.” Deduct the original enthusiasm of A and B, and ascertain the real financial basis!

I do not claim that this is an invariable rule, and there are, of course,

many exceptions. Stamps appear at auction that are either justifiably rare and undervalued, or are a veritable "bolt out of the blue," and the wise man is he who then secures his quarry on the spot. It is the heedless enthusiasm of the uninitiated purchaser that I wish to guard against, as not being a true factor in determining the real and permanent value of a specimen. It is for this purpose, and in order to prevent the undue elevation of the fabric, that I venture to call attention to the frequent rottenness of its foundation.

Thirdly. An ever-increasing factor founded on common-sense principles, now that the pursuit is attracting the attention of collectors who invest from capital, is the wide gulf fixed between "poor" and immaculate specimens. In all financial circles there is a constant striving after first-class securities, nor can there be any doubt but that the safest investments in the philatelic market, are to be found in "gilt-edged stuff." If Philately is to continue, and it seems—to again use the American vernacular—"come to stay," it appears assured that with the fierce competition to be complete and perfect, perfect specimens will always command not only the highest price, but find the readiest market.

I can only add, in conclusion, that in my opinion almost all the drawbacks arising out of stamp auctions are traceable to the buyers themselves, and that Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper are, in the best interests of collectors, to be congratulated not only on this important sale, but on their successful efforts to conduct their Philatelic business on a high standard.

The First Four Pence of Western Australia.

BY E. D. BACON.



THE interesting paper, treating of certain varieties to be found in the inscription of the First Four Pence of Western Australia, by Mr. M. P. Castle, in the *London Philatelist* of last month, draws attention to a subject about which no detailed information has previously been available. The paper cannot fail to be of marked service to the many Philatelists who are interested in the stamps of this colony, and with the excellent illustrations Mr. Castle has provided, collectors will know what to look for, and have the means of identifying any specimens of these curious varieties they may find themselves the lucky possessors of, or that they may come across in the future.

As I have myself written upon the stamps of Western Australia in the *London Philatelist* of October, November, and December, 1892, it may not be thought out of place for me to offer a few comments on Mr. Castle's paper.

And first with regard to the arrangement of the stamps on the sheet of the Four Pence. It is stated in the London Society's *Oceania Catalogue*, which draws attention in a general way to the frame varieties, that the sheet of this

value was divided into four panes, each containing sixty stamps in ten horizontal rows of six. Mr. Castle's memory must therefore be playing him false when he refers to the sheet as being divided into two panes only.

Secondly, I cannot say I agree with the explanation Mr. Castle advances to account for the manner in which the varieties of the frames he describes have arisen. I am presumptuous enough to think that if my friend had read more carefully than he appears to have done, what I wrote on the subject in the paper I have referred to, we should perhaps be more in accord on this point than is now the case. He does not at any rate traverse my description of the probable cause of the varieties, although he does not refer to it, and his explanation may be said to be just the reverse of mine. He thinks that the varieties arose in taking a transfer from one stone to another, and that the transferer noticed these varieties, and the one with what he calls the "inverted swan," and that the workman forthwith substituted other transfers in their places. I believe that they arose in taking transfers one by one from the engraved frame when the original stone of 240 stamps was prepared, and that they were the result of carelessness in fixing these frames round the 240 central designs that were already pasted on the card or paper that was being made up for transference to the stone. And, as I further explained in my article, the variety usually catalogued with "inverted swan" is in all probability more correctly described as with "inverted frame," in the same way as the similar variety of the 12 cuartos Spain of 1865 is known to have been printed.

We have at present no information that more than one stone was ever prepared, but it is clear the "inverted frame" variety was corrected, as it did not appear on the later printed sheets. The other frame varieties could not have been noticed and altered in the way Mr. Castle describes, as numbers 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of the illustrations are taken from unused specimens in the "Tapling Collection," every one of which was cut out of the part sheet mentioned in *Oceania*, and this part sheet, from the colour of the stamps and the pure white gum on them, unmistakably belongs to one of the last printings of this value. That these frame varieties exist in the later printings can also be proved by the fact that *rouletted* copies of them are found. For instance, Mr. Castle says Mr. C. J. Phillips possesses a rouletted specimen of illustration No. 1, while the stamp illustrated as No. 13 is also rouletted, and the "Tapling Collection" likewise contains a duplicate of illustration No. 8, which also shews rouletting.

I cannot either agree that the varieties are all of the same shade of colour; and this is certainly not the case as far as my experience goes, for both the rouletted copies of No. 8 and No. 13 are darker in colour than numbers 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, from which the illustrations have been taken, and both stamps have yellow gum. There is also a second specimen of No. 10 in the Tapling collection, printed in the blue-black shade, which is the darkest of all the colours found for this Four Penny stamp, and the "inverted frame" variety is again a different shade to any of the specimens I have called attention to. It can, therefore, be readily proved that some, if not all the frame varieties, run through different printings, and if some, why not all?

And this brings me to the third and last point, about which I desire to say a few words. In speaking of the great rarity of these frame varieties, I think Mr. Castle has overlooked the fact that their existence has only been known to but a *very few* collectors. No description of them has before been published in any catalogue or journal, and no attention has been paid to them by the great body of collectors and dealers. The consequence is, that they have never been searched for; but, as in the past, when a new variety has been chronicled, others have frequently been afterwards discovered, so I anticipate it will be with these frame varieties of the fourpenny stamps. Naturally, as there was only one of each variety on the sheet of 240 stamps, they must be scarce, but I think it is going too far to compare them in rarity with the "inverted frame" variety. But whatever is the true *raison d'être* of these varieties of the Four Pence, there must necessarily be a good deal of conjecture amongst Philatelists how to account for them. The fact remains that they exist, and all collectors are greatly indebted to Mr. Castle for bringing the varieties so prominently before their notice.

NOTE BY MR. CASTLE.

I need hardly say that I always welcome the able criticisms of my friend Mr. Bacon, whose excellent articles on these stamps I had of course referred to. My reference to two panes on the sheet instead of four, as mentioned previously by him, was a slip of the memory, as also the obvious one in the assignment of a "star" watermark instead of a swan to the 4d. of the subsequent issue of this country.

As to Mr. Bacon's second point, I did not intend to convey an absolute attachment to the theory that these errors arose in a transfer from stone to stone—it may well be, as my friend suggests, that the mistake occurred in reduplicating the frame from the matrix. I was unaware of the different shades of this stamp mentioned by Mr. Bacon. All those in my own collection, as those shewn to me by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, were of the normal pale blue shade (with adventitious paper colourings caused by the gum), and I thought it likely that these errors only appeared in this (presumably) later shade that was afterwards rouletted. The announcement of the existence in the Tapling collection of the blue-black colour, beyond the other shades mentioned, is alone sufficient to prove that these errors were continued, if not for the whole period, certainly during the issue of several printings, and I am very glad Mr. Bacon has pointed this out.

As to the third point. It is precisely here that I was and am at a loss to account for the rarity of all these varieties, "inverted swan" included. My principal reasons for assuming that these errors had been speedily rectified on the stone, were their evenness of colour (as I imagined), and their rarity. Mr. Bacon has demonstrated that the former statement is invalid, and to my mind this only renders the second the more inexplicable. These errors or varieties have not, it is true, been known to many collectors, but I could give the names of a good few who have been aware of them for many years—and keen Philatelic hunters too.

The "inverted swan"—to use its best known designation—has been known all over the stamp-collecting world for years as a rare and valuable stamp,

and in the search for this it seems more than probable that collectors or dealers would have hit upon the other varieties. I am confident that in the panes and blocks I have seen, I have never been able to find any one of these varieties; and I have, moreover, lately had an opportunity of inspecting one of the finest collections in the world of West Australians. A very large number of these Four Pennies were in the book, but I failed to find any single one of these varieties. I only know of the existence of five, or perhaps, six, inverted centres. Of the minor varieties even fewer are known to exist, although this may be mainly due to the fact that they are less widely known. Assuming, however, that the information is now widespread, it would require—to have an equal number with the known existent copies of the inverted, and taking the ten most marked variations only—sixty specimens of these errors to turn up. Judging from the past, does this seem likely? As to their great rarity, which Mr. Bacon seems disposed to contest, they are all obviously (unless exactly repeated in the sheet—a very improbable event), one exactly as rare as the other. I do not contend that they would be all worth the same. In the 2d. Sydney, Plate ii., of the two stamps placed vertically in the same sheet, one with the *additional* strokes on each side of the circle, is an equally prominent and collectable variety with its companion immediately below it, with a few *missing* strokes in the guise of the word “crevit!” One, is, however, the hero of the auction room, and the other’s virtues blush unseen.

There are 240 stamps to the entire plate of these Four Pennies, and, say ten prominent errors—*i.e.*, one specimen in twenty-four should be an abnormal variety. Now can it be contended that these errors are only twenty-four times as scarce as the ordinary variety? If they have been present through all the printings, how is it that they have not been found? The inverted centre, being a glaring mistake, may have been at once corrected—hence its rarity; and it remains to be seen whether the like course was adopted as regards the other varieties. When it is considered that this stamp was in use for many years, and that there were, moreover, very considerable remainders, it seems more than strange that they should not have been found. In the precisely similar instance, the issue of Issue II. Oldenburg, I have found at least four times as many errors in a few years as I did of these Westerns in twenty years. It will, therefore, be of special interest both to Mr. Bacon and myself, to watch the development of events, in the hope that further specimens may be found to add to our present knowledge of these errors.



The Adhesive Stamps of Holland.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 1894.

BY J. W. GILLESPIE.



It will be understood what a kindly feeling I have towards the stamps of this country, when I mention that in the year 1858 my collection was commenced with the 15 cents of the 1st issue, the very stamp being on the sheets submitted to the meeting. The stamps of this country have been comparatively neglected by Philatelists, though as regards both design and execution of the earlier issues they compare well with many of their contemporaries. There are but few forgeries, and absolutely no surcharges. As far as I am aware these stamps have never been described by any society in this or any other country, though the Royal Dutch Stamp Collectors' Society has now a work in the press, which I am sorry not to have had the advantage of consulting before compiling these notes.*

1st Issue. Authorised 12th November, 1851, issued 1st January, 1852.

Very finely engraved bust of King William III. to right (on copper?) in an oval having a back ground of fine horizontal coloured lines. The oval is a sort of frame composed of conventional foliage. The spandrels are filled in with branches of the foliage on a back ground of fine vertical coloured lines; at the top to the left is the word "Post" and to the right the word "Zegel" in small Roman capitals. At the bottom to the left is the value in figures, and to the right the letter "C." Printed on thick to medium wove paper, tinted usually with the colour of the stamp. Each sheet consisted of 4 rows of 25 stamps each. Watermark a post-horn, gum yellowish, size 20 × 18mm. Imperforate, though a pin-perforated specimen "fully guaranteed" of the 15 cents was recently sold at auction.

Three values. 5c., ultramarine, Prussian-blue.
10c., lake, pale to full.
15c., yellow-orange, to brown-orange.

2nd Issue. Authorized 13th May, 1864, and issued as required during that year.

Larger bust of king in uniform to the right in an oval, having a back ground composed of very fine horizontal and vertical coloured lines. The oval is a wreath, the material of which is bound together by ribbons crossing each other diagonally at various places. The top spandrels are filled in to right and left with the value and letter "C" on a background of fine vertical coloured lines. Paper—medium wove, without watermark, tinted generally with the colour of the stamp; size, 21½ × 17½ mm., perforated as per list. There were 200 stamps in each sheet. These stamps were, I believe,

* The publication of Mr. Gillespie's paper has been unavoidably delayed and the Dutch Society's Catalogue has now been issued.—ED.

printed at first by the Government, but latterly by a private firm. The types of the three values are identical, so I fancy that the course adopted in the preparation of the final steel or copper plates must have been this: A steel die was cut, having the left hand top corner blank. From this original die three others were struck, and before hardening, the figures of value were cut into each, and the groundwork of fine perpendicular lines finished off. If the stamps are carefully examined it will be seen that for a space of 4 mm. in the left hand top corner the lines are coarser. Impressions from these were then struck on the final plates. This applies to 1st and 3rd issues also.

Three values. 5 cents, Prussian-blue (shades).
 10 „ pink, lake, (shades) (August).
 15 „ light to dark orange (Early 1865).

Perforations recorded as being found in the 1864 issue.

5 C., $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 12, $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2}$, 12×13 .
 10 C., 12, $12 + 12\frac{1}{2}$, 12×13 .
 15 C., $11\frac{1}{2}$, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 12, $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

3rd Issue. Authorized 4th September, 1867, and subsequently brought into use as required.

Head of king to left in circle, finely engraved on steel. The background is composed of fine vertical and horizontal coloured lines. The circle is formed of a chain-work pattern, surrounded by a broad white line. The spandrils are filled in with vertical and horizontal coloured lines. The top border has the word NEDERLAND in shaded block capitals on a white ground; the bottom border contains the value in figures and the word CENT. The sides are filled in with Greek key pattern; size, $21\frac{1}{2} \times 17\frac{1}{2}$ mm. In each corner there is a star inside an oval. Printed on stiff white or slightly tinted wove paper of medium thickness, without watermark. Perforated as per list. As in the case of the stamps of most countries, imperforate specimens exist, both with and without postmark.

Six values. 5 cents, ultramarine, pale to light (1868).
 10 „ carmine, rose-carmine „
 15 „ red-brown (shades) (27th June, 1868).
 20 „ dark green (1st October, 1867).
 25 „ violet (shades) „
 50 „ golden, dark golden „

It is to be noted that, in this and all subsequent issues, there is nothing on the stamps to indicate that they are to be used for postal purposes only.

The variety perforated 10 to $10\frac{1}{2}$ is comparatively rare. I have only come across the 5, 10, 15, 20 cents, though the 25 and 50 cent probably exist.

1867. Perforations Recorded.

5 C., 10, $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 12×13 , 12×14 , $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, 13, $13\frac{1}{2}$, 14.
 10 C., 10, $11\frac{1}{2}$, $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 12×13 , $13 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.
 15 C., 10, $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 12×13 , 12×14 , 13, $13\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, 14, $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$.
 20 C., 10, $11\frac{1}{2}$, $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 12×13 , 13, $13 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2}$, 14.
 25 C., $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 12×13 , $13\frac{1}{2}$.
 50 C., $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 12×13 , 13, $13\frac{1}{2}$.

5th Issue. Authorized 24th September, 1891.

Precisely similar in design and paper to the previous issue, except that the portrait of the young Queen Wilhelmina is substituted for that of William III. Perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, except $2\frac{1}{2}$ f., which is $13\frac{1}{2}$.

Eleven values. 5 c., ultramarine, Prussian-blue (Oct., 1891.)
 $7\frac{1}{2}$ c., madder-brown (1st April, 1892.)
 10 c., carmine-rose (Oct., 1891.)
 $12\frac{1}{2}$ c., pearl-grey (")
 15 c., yellow-brown (Dec., 1891.)
 20 c., emerald-green (Jan., 1892.)
 $22\frac{1}{2}$ c., blue-green (Dec., 1891.)
 25 c., violet (shades) (")
 50 c., bistre (")
 f.1 0 c., slate-blue (1894.)
 f.2 50 c., carmine and blue centre (1st Jan., 1893.)

Complementary Issue. Authorised 11th February, 1892, same design, &c. as previous issue.

3 c., orange-yellow (1st April, 1892.)

NEWSPAPER, &c., ADHESIVE STAMPS.

1st Issue. Authorized 3rd December, 1868.

Type-printed in colour; Arms of Holland in shield, surmounted by a crown, on a plain white ground, partly enclosed by branches of laurel and oak, the whole surrounded by a beaded circle. The spandrels are filled in with fine horizontal coloured lines. The corners are composed of conventional scroll work. The word "Nederland" is printed in a curve at the top, in coloured block capitals, and the value in figures, followed by the word "cent," at the bottom, also in a curve. Size $22\frac{1}{2} \times 18$ mm. Printed on softish to hard white, or sometimes tinted wove paper, without watermark; perforated as per list.

Two values. 1 c., black (1st Jan., 1869.)
 2 c., yellow-brown to buff (")

1st Complementary Issue. Authorized 19th April, 1869. Same design as previous issue.

One value. $1\frac{1}{2}$ c., bright to pale rose (10th May, 1869.)

2nd Complementary Issue. Authorized 26th April, 1869. Same design as first issue.

One value. 1 c., green to bright green.

3rd Complementary Issue. Authorized 11th November, 1870. Same design as first issue.

Two values. $2\frac{1}{2}$ c., lilac to violet (1st Dec., 1870.)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., light to dark brown (")

Newspapers, &c. Issue of 1868 and its Complements. Perforations recorded.

$\frac{1}{2}$ c., 13, $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.
 1 c., $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, 13, $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, 13×14 , 14.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ c., 13, $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, 14.
 2 c., 12×13 , 13, $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, 14.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ c., 12×13 , 13, $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, 13×14 , 14.

Unpostmarked specimens of a $\frac{1}{2}$ cent., black, are occasionally to be met with, but from the fact of their being on quite different paper (very much thicker, almost cardboard) and the absence of gum, I am inclined to think that this is an essay, or at most, a proof, and not an *error*. The change in colour of the 1 cent. stamp from black to green was probably owing to the difficulty in seeing the black postmark.

2nd Issue. Authorized 15th September, 1876.

Type-printed in colour. Ornamental figures of value, on a plain white ground, in a circle. This circle is made up of a fine white wavy line, on a coloured ground, enclosed within two white lines. The groundwork of the spandrels and sides is composed of minute figures of value, printed in colour on a white ground, and enclosed in hexagonal stars. Larger figures of value, occupy each corner in small circles. A label at the top contains the word "Nederland" in coloured block capitals, and one at the bottom the word cent. Size $22\frac{1}{2} \times 18$ mm. Medium wove paper of a yellowish tint. Without watermark. Perforated as per list.

Four values. $\frac{1}{2}$ c., rose-carmine.
1 c., bright green.
2 c., golden-yellow.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ c., violet shades.

The values $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 cent. are found on ribbed paper.

1876 Issue. *Newspapers, &c. Perforations recorded.*

$\frac{1}{2}$ c., 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 13, 14.
1 c., 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 12 $\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, 13.
2 c., 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 12 \times 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ c., 12 $\frac{1}{2} \times 13$, 13, 13 \times 14, 13 $\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.
12, 12 \times 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 12 \times 13, 13 \times 13 $\frac{1}{2}$, 13 $\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, are common to all values.

UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

There are four types of these stamps.

Type I. The letter "B" of the word "Betalen" is badly shaped as regards the loops. The letter "O" of the word "Post" is oval in shape. There are 34 links in the chain-like circle round the figure of value.

Type II. The letters of the words "Te Betalen" are thinner than in Type I. If a line be drawn through the centre of the letter "T" of "Betalen" it will pass between two links of the chain-work. The letter "O" of the word "Port" is of a broader shape, and slightly thicker than in Type I. There are 33 links in the chain.

Type III. Similar to Type II., but the lettering of the words "Te Betalen" is in thicker type. The line drawn through the letter "T" will in this case pass through a link slightly to the left of its centre. There are 32 links in the chain.

Type IV. The letters composing the words "Te Betalen" are further apart, and thicker than in any of the other types, and the word PORT is

much larger, and occupies more space. There are 37 links in the chain. The stamp itself is smaller than the others, measuring about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. less in height.

1st Issue. Authorised 23rd April, 1870, issued 15th May, 1870.

Ornamented figure of value, type-printed in colour on coloured paper, having no watermark, on a plain ground, and enclosed in a circle composed of a chain-work pattern between two coloured lines. In the top border, on a coloured ground, are the words "Te Betalen," and at the bottom the word "Port," in Roman capitals. Each sheet contained 200 stamps. Thick, softish wove paper. Size, $21\frac{1}{2} \times 17\frac{1}{2}$ mm., perforated 13 and $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Two values. 5 cents. brown (shades) on orange, Type IV.

10 „ violet on blue „ III.

2nd Issue. Authorised 4th March, 1881. Same design and size as the previous issue, but printed in blue on a crisp white paper without watermark, and the figure of value in black, with the word "Cent." underneath, except the f.1 which is printed in words in red, perforated $11\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2}$.

Ten values. 1 cent, blue, figure black.

1st April, 1881.

$1\frac{1}{2}$

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„

$2\frac{1}{2}$

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5

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„

June, 1887.

10

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$12\frac{1}{2}$

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1st April, 1881.

15

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20

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25

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f.1

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"Een Gulden" in red. 1st April, 1881.

All values are found in the four types, but the comparative rarity of Type IV. is made manifest by the following figures. If a complete sheet of 200 stamps of each value be taken, it will be found that there are of—

Type I.	.	.	.	434
„ II.	.	.	.	406
„ III.	.	.	.	1036
„ IV.	.	.	.	124
				<u>2000</u>

In 1893 the arrangement of the plates was altered so as to exclude Type IV. entirely, except that of the f.1 value.

Since this paper was read I have received a copy of the Dutch Society's Catalogue, from which I have obtained the exact dates on which the various issues were authorized.



The Annual Dinner of the London Philatelic Society.



HIS event was once more pleasingly celebrated, on the 26th of this month, at the Café Monico. The arrangements for the dinner were left in the hands of Messrs. C. Neville Biggs, Douglas Garth, and T. Wickham-Jones, the result being of the most satisfactory nature, both as regards the excellent repast provided and the post-prandial entertainment. For the musical portion of the latter the assembled company were deeply indebted to Messrs. W. J. Clark, Rubeck, and Stevens, for their several excellent renderings. The widely-prevalent influenza unfortunately prevented the attendance of many gentlemen whose absence was to be deplored—among them the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. A. Tilleard, Major E. B. Evans, Dr. Viner, and several more. Despite this unpropitious circumstance, the forty-five members and their friends who were present all testified to the event having passed off in the most enjoyable manner. We give a brief *resumé* of some of the post-prandial oratory.

Due honour having been accorded to the usual loyal toasts, especially that of their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Saxe-Cobourg and York, as Honorary President and Vice-President, Mr. Castle, who occupied the chair, in proposing the toast of the London Philatelic Society, expressed regret at the absence of the President, the Earl of Kingston, through illness, and also alluded to the great loss sustained in the past year through the death of Mr. Gilbert Harrison. In referring to what had been done during the year, he held the chief event to be the very successful exhibition by the Society on their twenty-fifth anniversary. He also laid great stress, as did other speakers throughout the evening, on the excessive and speculative new issues—in the majority of cases brought out not so much for real postal uses as for enriching the various exchequers, and, probably to a considerable extent, the private postmasters. This threatened to prove a serious danger to Philately in the future, and Mr. Castle suggested that one and all should do all they possibly could to counteract it. The London Society had taken its fullest part in the work of developing stamp collecting, and bringing it to a scientific basis; it had worked for many years past in bringing out elaborate books and treatises upon stamps; and had endeavoured, as far as possible, to keep clear of all contentions. The toast was received with enthusiasm.

The presentation to the ex-Hon. Secretary, Mr. D. Garth, of the handsome Early English silver bowl, subscribed for by the members, then took place, the Chairman expressing in felicitous terms their great appreciation of Mr. Garth's services during the past eight years, and their best wishes for his future—a toast that also evoked great enthusiasm.

In reply, Mr. Garth thanked the members for the great compliment they had paid him, saying that he felt himself amply repaid for his services to the Society by the kind words and vote of thanks accorded to him on his retirement. He then went on to explain how the Society had gradually grown from a few members to over 300, and also remarked that the reputation of the Society was made by hard work at the meetings. He hoped that they would continue in that course, and not regard the meetings as merely social. He concluded an apposite and feeling speech with the hope that, one day, one of his sons might also aspire to the proud position of Secretary to the London Philatelic Society.

Mr. Gordon Smith gave due prominence to the toast of the "Officers of the Society," to whom he considered so large a portion of its success was due; and, as an instance of zeal, called attention to the fact of the Earl of Kingston having, during the past season, contributed papers from a bed of sickness. Mr. Pearce responded in excellent style on behalf of his fellow officials; while in proposing "The Philatelic Press," Mr. H. R. Oldfield, as also Mr. E. J. Nankivell in reply, materially enlivened the proceedings by speeches that were full of point and humour, and amply vindicated their reputation as able speakers.

The presence of Messrs. J. D. Heath and another representative of the firm of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., enabled Mr. E. D. Bacon, in giving the health of "The Visitors," to make a happy allusion to the veneration in which the handiwork of that firm is held by all Philatelists; while Mr. Heath made a most felicitous reply, his allusion to the supposed numerous errors in printing that his firm had perpetrated being received with almost hilarious incredulity! Mr. R. Ehrenbach proposed most graciously the health of the Chairman, a suitable response to which having been given, hosts and guests gradually dispersed after a final *conversazione*, each and all with the conviction that a most excellent and pleasant function had been performed.



Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

NOTE — *The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

GREAT BRITAIN: THE 6d., LIGHT BUFF, PLATE 13.

MR. O. FIRTH writes us: "With reference to the paragraph on 'Great Britain' in the January number of *The London Philatelist*, as to the above stamp, may I refer you to the *Philatelic Record*, p. 104, vol. xii., and Westoby's *Postage Stamps of the United Kingdom*, p. 21, note? The stamp there referred to passed into the possession of Herr von Ferrary in 1891."

DISCOVERIES.

CEYLON.—The varieties of perforation seem infinite in this country's issues, and to the specialist they are interesting, although they are not of individual importance as denoting any fresh issue, or, in fact, anything more than the use of various perforating machines at the same time. Mr. Asher Levy kindly sends us a specimen hereof in the gum, 10d., perf. 15 above, and 12½ below and on either side. No portion of the watermark can be seen beyond apparently one horizontal line across the base of the stamp, but both in the colour of the impression and the texture of the paper it clearly belongs to the CC and Crown series.

TRINIDAD.—Mr. Geo. Callf writes that he has a pair of the 1d., no-watermark issue, of this colony, perforated 16 above and below, but imperforate vertically between the two stamps. There are other varieties of this issue of a like nature, although they are few and far between in their apparition.

WEST AUSTRALIA.—We have been shewn a specimen of the 4d., Issue I., on original cover, by Mr. C. Kuttner, that bears out the argument adopted by Mr. E. D. Bacon in his papers in vol. i. of this Journal, as to the issue of this stamp before the date assigned to it in the *Oceania Catalogue*. The specimen in question, which is on a letter addressed to Hackney, London, bears the Perth cancellation in red, with date of Aug. 20, 1855.

THE VICTORIA, TWO PENCE, 1852.

MR. DAVID H. HILL, writing from Melbourne under date of December 14th last, gives the following interesting information on the intricate varieties of this issue, which we reproduce from the columns of our esteemed contemporary, *The Australian Philatelist*:

"In *Vindin's Monthly* for January, 1893, I gave a list of four known errors of lithographic transfer existing in horizontal pairs, the lettering on the right corresponding with a vertical strip mentioned in M. Moens' catalogue. Since then, as we know, another horizontal pair SW—GM has been brought to light by a member of

the Victorian Philatelic Society, completing the strip, and showing that the second vertical row on the sheet was not altered.

"With respect to the vertical pair WA.—WA mentioned in my article, I ventured the opinion that this was from another stone, and this has now, I think, been confirmed. I have just been favoured by Mr. F. Hagen, of Sydney, with a horizontal strip of four of the lithographed stamps lettered V Z, W A, H N, I O, *i.e.*, the first two stamps of the third row, and the third and fourth stamps of the fourth row. As H N—I O have not been found in combination with N R, O S, X D, or their own letters, it is only natural to infer that F L—G M having become worn or damaged, were replaced by V Z—W A, from which comes the vertical pair W A—W A. I have every expectation that a vertical pair V Z—V Z will yet be discovered to support my hypothesis, in which case it will be seen that five pairs showing error of lettering, four vertical and one horizontal, may be made from this stone, which was evidently not the same as that which contained the strip mentioned by M. Moens."

Occasional Notes.

EDITORIAL NOTE.

IN order to be enabled to include the report of the Society's dinner we have been compelled to retard for a couple of days the publication of the current number of the *London Philatelist*. To the same cause is to be attributed the temporary exclusion of a few items in the "Novelty" list, as also Mr. Gordon Smith's further notes on "The Philbrick Collection."

THE EXPERT COMMITTEE—REDUCTION OF FEES.

THE Expert Committee of the Philatelic Society, London, having found it practicable to modify to some extent the fee hitherto charged for the registration and examination of rare or doubtful stamps, the charges made will in future be as follows:—For a single stamp 2s. 6d., as at present; for two or more stamps submitted at the same time, and by the same person, 2s. each; and in the case of each stamp pronounced not genuine, the charge will be reduced to 1s. 6d., the balance of the fee sent being returned with the stamp. All stamps for the Expert Committee must be sent to Major Evans, Longton Avenue, Sydenham, not to the Society's Rooms, or to the Secretary, as this involves additional expense for postage. The fee must accompany the stamps, and may be sent either by Postal Order, or in 1d. or ½d. postage stamps.

THE PHILATELISTS' SUPPLEMENT TO THE BAZAAR.

YET another evidence of the spread of Philately is to be gathered from the appearance of the above, following the example of the *Million*. The information contained in the twenty-four pages is both varied and excellent in character, being well illustrated, and cannot fail to be of service to many readers of that widely-circulated journal, *The Exchange and Mart and Bazaar*. Almost all the leading dealers have advertisements—a striking testimony to the influence of our contemporary, to whose venture we cordially wish success, as being calculated to add recruits to our ranks.

A DISCOVERY.

THE following paragraph has been going the rounds of the Daily Press, and we repeat it under all reserve :

"Good news for Philatelists comes from the Continent. An unexpected discovery has been made at Malines of three sheets of 5f. Belgian stamps, making in all 900 stamps. The stock of these stamps had become all but exhausted, and they were selling for 25f. when new, 20f. when obliterated with the round stamp, and from 8f. to 10f. when obliterated with the roller. On hearing of the discovery, a dealer in Brussels offered to purchase them all at 7f. each, but the bargain was declined. A Parisian dealer offered 11f. each, and the Brussels dealer increased his offer to 12f., but no decision has yet been come to. They will, it is said, be sold to the highest bidder."

Reviews.

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS STAMPS.*



THE artistic tastes of the author peep out in every detail of this handsome book. The beautiful head and tail pieces, the creamy whiteness of the paper, the numerous and excellent illustrations, and their very pose in relation to the text, all bespeak the fact that the work is that of a man who infuses his artistic instincts into whatever he undertakes. The entire volume—which is large enough to embrace the numerous full-size plates of sixty stamps each—is a veritable *édition de luxe* in style, and reflects the greatest credit upon its publishers. In our view it incontestably proves that Philatelic works gain immeasurably both in appearance and utility by the interspersing of the illustrations with the text, and we trust that the London Philatelic Society will follow suit in its forthcoming works.

Mr. Brown dedicates the book to Major Evans, to whom he pays a compliment as handsome as well deserved for the assistance derived from the latter's articles in the *Monthly Journal*. The stamps of the Native Protected States and of Bangkok are given, the latter being under a somewhat different category. It seems almost a pity that the parent stamps of the Straits themselves could not have been included, as they are not very numerous, and their presence would have rounded off the work. Curiously enough the first stamp in the work—that of the 32c. first issue of the Straits, surcharged "B" for Bangkok—is one that we never could regard with unlimited confidence, and have never seen it indubitably postmarked on an original cover. A detailed criticism however of the work is not called for—its vices are very few, and its virtues most apparent. We congratulate Mr. William Brown, of Salisbury, on his charming book, and wish it the success it richly deserves.

SHANGHAI.†

We have received from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., another of their handbooks, this time on Shanghai, written by our old Philatelic friend (Mr.

* *The Stamps of the Straits Settlements surcharged for use in the Native Protected States.* By WILLIAM BROWN, St. Thomas' Square, Salisbury.

† *Shanghai, with Notes and Publishers' Prices.* By W. B. THORNHILL. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London.

W. B. Thornhill). We are afraid that these stamps are "Caviare to the multitude," although they are becoming to be more generally recognized as belonging to a genuine postal issue. As we understand that a paper will be read before the Society on these stamps, with special reference to this handbook, we do not propose to give any extended criticism on this work. That it has given Mr. Thornhill an infinity of labour is at once evident, and that he has succeeded in discovering a large number of fresh varieties of the first issue is equally apparent. In the case of Shanghai it is Philatelic virgin soil, and Mr. Thornhill is to be highly commended for this enterprise in thus opening up new ground. In this book, after sixteen pages of introductory matter, the remarks follow each issue in the reference list, an alteration that we suggested in our review of the last published work of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd.

THE STANDARD CATALOGUE.*

Marvellous is the development of Philatelic literature, and no stronger evidence can be adduced than the striking improvement of this well-known catalogue over its predecessors. The Publishers state that "the catalogue is now published in pocket size only, and we think that collectors will welcome this new departure. The pocket edition of last year was a photographic reproduction of the large size, and, in consequence, the type and the illustrations are not quite as clear as they might have been. The new edition has been entirely re-set in new type, and the objections to the last edition have all been overcome. The illustrations of the stamps themselves are reduced in size, but surcharges are illustrated in their natural size, making comparison of minor varieties very easy. Postal cards are now illustrated in full, on a reduced scale, and it will be easier to identify them now than formerly, when only partial illustrations were given.

"The prices have been determined after careful consideration, based upon our own experience and upon that of the best known authorities in other parts of the world. In many instances the increase over previous quotations may strike our readers as somewhat remarkable, but in many cases this increase is not due so much to an enhancement of the value as to the fact that previous quotations were far too low. Almost every stamp has affixed to it the actual present market value, but collectors should bear in mind that no catalogue can be published in which the prices will be invariable for a year or six months, or even three months, as the stamp market responds more rapidly to-day than ever before to every fluctuation in demand and supply.

"Collectors should always bear in mind that catalogue prices will not always serve as a guide to the value of any particular specimen that they may have, as the condition of a stamp regulates the price to a great extent. There are some stamps of which specimens in varying conditions will range anywhere from \$5 to \$200, and particularly noteworthy cases of such fluctuations may be observed in the early Mauritius stamps, the Sydney views and various other English colonies. Unused stamps are also in many instances

* *The Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, 1895. The Scott Stamp and Coin Co., New York. W. T. Wilson, 6, Westminster Road, Birmingham.

worth far more with the gum than without it, and a large margin on an unperforated stamp may frequently double or treble the price which an ordinary specimen would realize."

The catalogue fully bears out these remarks, and an evidently honest attempt has been made to give market values, in very many cases successfully. Unnecessary words such as "new" and "used" over each column are omitted, the paper and printing are now of excellent quality, all the latest additions are incorporated, and the book stands revealed as a notable specimen of American enterprise, and a thoroughly up-to-date catalogue that will be hard to beat even in the "old country."

THE "STAMP NEWS" ANNUAL.*

"Better late than never" can hardly be applied to this issue, as, despite the delay, there is an unmistakeable deterioration of the Annual. A large portion of the work consists of extracts from Philatelic Journals. There is an absence of really good scientific articles, and a strong savour of one man power that makes a great want of variety and interest. Among the articles most worth reading are those by Mr. W. A. S. Westoby on the English Dies; by the Rev. J. A. Dunbar-Dunbar on the Bavarian stamps; "A Forecast," and one or two other articles by members of the London Philatelic Society. If the Annual is to continue its hitherto successful career it will require very material alteration, as to the time of its appearance and the tone of its articles.

MR. W. MORLEY'S CATALOGUE.†

We have received from Mr. Walter Morley a copy of his catalogue of the stamps of Great Britain, which we can sincerely recommend to all our readers interested in this country. The book consists of a hundred and thirty-two pages, and comprises all adhesives and entires, postage stamps proper, fiscals, telegraphs, and all minor branches, such as the railway labels and college emissions. These latter we regret being unable to properly appreciate, but doubtless there is a large class of collectors to whom this portion of the work will appeal. Judging from the prices, there should be no diminution of interest taken in the postage adhesives themselves; though but a limited part of the book is devoted to them, what there is appears to us complete, and arranged in an extremely simple and concise manner, far better than the chronological order adopted by some authorities. Descending to details, we regret to see "ivory heads" and inverted watermarks separately catalogued and priced, this last very trivial and uninteresting variety being due merely to whether the "feeder" puts the sheet one way or another in the press. On the whole Mr. Morley is to be heartily congratulated on his labour and enterprise, in adding such a compendium to our libraries.

* *The Stamp News Annual, being the 'Xmas Number of the Stamp News.* Theodor Buhl & Co., 11, Queen Victoria St., London, E.C.

† *W. Morley's Catalogue and Price List of the Stamps of Great Britain.* 186, West Green Road, Tottenham, London, N.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

BERMUDA.—The colour of the two pence value is now brown-violet, and that of the one shilling, brown.

Adhesives. 2 pence, brown-violet.
1 shilling, brown.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—The sixpence value, although not altered in design, is now printed in deep *mauve*, of a fugitive colour.

Adhesive. 6 pence, deep mauve.

CYPRUS.—We are indebted to Mr. Pierides for a specimen of the $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre reply paid card, on *buff*, which was issued at the beginning of the month.—*Monthly Journal*.

Post Card. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ piastre, green on buff.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We formally chronicle the new post card referred to last month.

Post Card. $\frac{1}{2}$ penny, brown on white.

HONG-KONG.—*Le Timbre Poste* reports a slight modification in the surcharge in Chinese characters of 20 on 30 cents, and 50 on 48 cents. In the first instance part of the surcharge is omitted, and in the second it is much smaller in size.

INDIA.—

"POSTAL NOTICE.

"With the sanction of Government, a portion of the stock of large size registration envelopes has been overprinted with the words 'On Her Majesty's Service,' and the envelopes are now available for sale to Government officers, under the ordinary rules applicable to service postage stamps, at a cost of rs. 1.5.3 per packet of eight. The envelopes are lined with linen, and bear an embossed stamp of the value of 2 annas in payment of the registration fee.

"(Signed) W. P. SYMONDS,

"Postmaster-General, Bombay.

"BOMBAY, POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

"Dated the 24th May, 1894."

LABUAN.—On page 245, vol. iii., we mentioned a reappearance of the old "Queen's head" type *lithographed*. Writing to *Le*

Timbre-Poste the North Borneo Company say that they never issued this set lithographed. If this is so, the stamps must have been *very* badly printed, to be mistaken for lithographs.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 6 c. in a new shade—*deep pink*.

Adhesives. 6 c., deep pink.

QUEENSLAND.—Writing to the *Monthly Journal*, a correspondent informs them of a modification to be introduced into the design of the stamps from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2s. The background of lines surrounding the head is to be removed, and this part left plain.

ST. HELENA.—The 2 pence has reached this colony in a paler shade of yellow, and with wmk. Crown CA. The surcharge in words measures $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and the bar $14\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Adhesive. 2 pence, pale yellow.

SIERRA LEONE.—Messrs. Cameron and Co. are responsible for the statement that there is about to be an issue of stamps of 5d., $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., 10d., 2/6, and 5/-, and possibly one of 1s. 3d.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The 4d., current type, is now surcharged O.S.

Adhesive. 4d., lilac, perf 15, black surcharge O.S.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Selangor*.—The 5 cents stamp has been printed in carmine and surcharged 3 cents, in black, in the same manner as the Sungei-Ujong surcharges lately described.

Adhesive. 3 cents, in black, on 5 cents, carmine.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—The 5 and 10 kreuzer values have, according to *Le Timbre Poste*, been issued on thinner and whiter paper, with more silk threads, and perf. 13, and $10\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ respectively.

Adhesives. 5 kr., black and rose.
10 kr., black and blue.

BELGIUM.—*Le Collectionneur de Timbre-Poste* chronicles the 25 c. letter card with dominical stamp.

Letter Card. 25 c., blue on rose.

HOLLAND.—Another value in new shade.

Adhesive. 2½ c., brown-violet.

LUXEMBURG.—The 37½ centimes is now perforated 11½ in place of 12½.

Adhesive. 37½ c., green; *perf.* 11½.

PORTUGAL.—Mr. J. N. Marsden has kindly forwarded to us two varieties of the somewhat superfluous surcharges of the 1893 issue that seem to be apparently genuine, *i.e.* unintentional. The errors are contained in the date, which reads "1938" and "1863," *i.e.* in the former case having the three last figures in inverted order, and in the latter having the "9" inverted and slipped lower down than the other figures. The authenticity of these specimens seems undoubted; their use apparently, however, has been fiscal, as they are attached to what purport to be receipts. Mr. Marsden writes: "I believe these to be genuine errors. I discovered them in a little up-country village. No dealers in Lisbon have any as far as I know. The two errors occurred in the same sheet. None of the sheets issued in Lisbon contained the errors."

1893. 10 reis, surcharged *Provisorio* and 1938.
1893. 10 " " " " 1863.

SAN MARINO.—The following changes of colour are reported:

Adhesives. 2 centesimi, rose.
20 " " violet
1 lira, sky-blue.

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The *Monthly Circular* has received a post card of a very small size—96 × 62 mm.—similar to the 4 c. grey card of 1878, but in a reduced size. It is probably a photographic reproduction of this card on a smaller scale.

Post Card. 4 centavos, grey on cream.

BRAZIL.—The following high values of the new series are now current.

Adhesives. 500 reis, blue and black.
700 " " black and red.
1000 " " green and violet.
2000 " " bistre and black.

The 80 reis post card is now also in use.

Post Card. 80 reis, red and blue on white.

HONDURAS.—We have the new series of adhesives and stationery, dated 1894-95, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The design has for its centre the usual figure of Liberty, the right hand holding up a pair of scales, and the left resting on a shield on which is the coat of arms. The surrounding frame is the same for all values,

with "REPUBLICA DE" at top, "HONDURAS" and value in figures and words at base, "SERVICIO 1894" on left side, "POSTAL 1895" on right, engraved in *taille douce* on white wove paper, *perf.* 12. There are two envelopes with a small stamp representing Liberty and the usual inscriptions; also two single and two reply post cards, with stamps of same type as adhesives.

Adhesives. 1 centavo, vermillion.
2 centavos, Prussian-blue.
5 " " slate (?)
10 " " dull lake.
20 " " ultramarine.
30 " " violet.
50 " " dark brown.
1 peso, green.
Envelopes. 5 centavos, black on white.
10 " " red-brown on white.
Post Cards. 2 centavos, green on flesh.
2+2 " " " *reply.*
3 " " green on lavender.
3+3 " " " *reply.*

NICARAGUA.—By an error in our November 1894 number we chronicled the surcharge of 1 c. on 11 c. here. It should be under Salvador. We have only ourselves to blame, as there is of course no 11 c. value in this already too extensive Seebeckised country.

We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. specimens of the 1895 crop of adhesives and stationery. The central design of the adhesives is in each case the Arms in an oval, but the surrounding framework is slightly different in each value. All, however, bear the inscription "UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL" "REPUBLICA DE NICARAGUA" "1895", and the values in numerals and words, engraved in *taille-douce* on white wove paper, *perf.* 12. There are five envelopes with similar design and inscriptions as above, the stamp being smaller, and of oval shape. The wrappers are three in number, and of the same design; two single, and two reply post cards, stamp of same design as adhesives. All are the work of the Hamilton Bank Note Company, of New York. There is, of course, the usual supply of "Oficial" and "Telegrafos."

Adhesives. 1 centavo, ochre-brown.
2 centavos, vermillion.
5 " " Prussian-blue.
10 " " slate.
20 " " chestnut.
50 " " violet.
1 peso, brown.
2 pesos, green.
5 " " red-brown.
10 " " orange.
Envelopes. 5 centavos, blue on white.
10 " " slate
20 " " rose
30 " " brown
50 " " violet
Wrappers. 1 centavo, green on blue.
2 centavos " "
4 " " "
Post Cards. 2 " " rose-red on yellow.
2+2 " " " *reply.*
3 " " blue on azure.
3+3 " " " *reply.*

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. DUKE ALFRED OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &c.

Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1894-95:

President—THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—R. PEARCE.

Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.

Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON.

R. EHRENBACH.

D. GARTH.

A. W. CHAMBERS.

E. B. EVANS.

T. WICKHAM JONES.

THE eleventh meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 25th January, 1895, at 7.30 p.m. The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the other members in attendance were—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, T. Maycock, R. Pearce, Gordon-Smith, J. C. Potter, and J. A. Tilleard.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from Dr. D. M. Finlay, announcing his desire to resign his membership, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

The receipt from Mr. Wm. E. Stone, the Secretary of the American Philatelic Association, of a volume of the *American Philatelist* for the Society's library, was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. Bacon announced that he had received a letter from Mr. A. T. Bate, containing some interesting information as to the early printed stamps of New Zealand, which he proposed to put into the form of a note for reading at a future meeting, and for publication in the *London Philatelist*.

Mr. Bate also sent for inspection by the members present, two copies of the second 4d. (blue) stamp of Western Australia, *rouletted*, and Mr. Bacon was requested to thank Mr. Bate for kindly forwarding these interesting stamps.

Mr. T. H. R. Crowle, proposed by Mr. Hynes, and seconded by the Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Ehrenbach then read a paper on "Fashion in Stamps," illustrating his remarks by a reference to the various countries

which might be termed "fashionable" and "unfashionable" from a philatelic standpoint, and giving, in conclusion, a list of neglected countries whose stamps would well repay a careful and studious investigation.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by Mr. Bacon, a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mr. Ehrenbach for his interesting paper.

The thirteenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 8th February, 1895, at 7.30 p.m. The members present were—Messrs. E. D. Bacon, H. R. Oldfield, C. N. Biggs, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, T. H. R. Crowle, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, T. Maycock, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The receipt from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of a copy of their recently published handbook on *The Stamps of Shanghai*, and from Messrs. Alfred Smith and Sons of a bound volume of their *Monthly Circular* for 1894, was in each case directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

A letter was read from Mr. Ehrenbach, who was unable to be present, sending for inspection proofs of stamps of Baden and Luxemburg, taken from the original copper-plates and signed by the engraver. Mr. Bacon also read a letter from Mr. G. J. Koster, sending for the use of the Society photographs of some of the Chiapas local stamps, and of a block of four of the scarce medio peso Guadalajara stamp, the receipt of which was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Dr. Emilio Diéna, proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by the Secretary, was elected a member of the Society.

The Secretary then read a paper entitled "Notes on the 'De la Rue' series of the Adhesive, Postage, and Telegraph Stamps in India," in which was embodied a considerable amount of official information in reference to the stamps in question. As an appendix to the paper there was added a copy of an official list of postage stamps of India, prepared by Lieut.-Col. Mainwaring in 1871, with corrections and additions made by Messrs. De la Rue & Co. in 1883, and containing the manufacturers' own descriptions of the stamps made by them for the Indian Government. An interesting series of essays of the new two rupee stamp which is about to be issued, and essays of the proposed new wrappers, kindly lent by H.R.H. the Duke of York, were produced for inspection by the members present.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Tilleard for his valuable paper, and it was referred to the Council to consider the desirability of publishing the paper as a supplement to "India and Ceylon."

At some of the intermediate meetings the resignations of Dr. Heurtley Sankey and of Mr. Chas. Colman were announced, and were accepted with regret. The business consisted of the settlement of the reference lists of the stamps of Heligoland and Hanover. Amongst other objects of interest shown at these meetings was a handsomely-bound copy of the first published edition of *Post-office Reforms*, by Sir Rowland Hill, together with the autograph letter in which he forwarded the report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, presented to the Society's Library by Mr. Garth.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. WILSON, Esq.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

January 17th.

W. G. Hawkins, Esq. (London); F. A. Wickhart, Esq. (London); W. A. Woolley, Esq. (Ironbridge), were unanimously elected members.

The President exhibited part of the De Coppel collection of Mexico, carefully pointing out the various errors and varieties in four vols. out of the sixteen of which the collection consists.

February 8th.

Messrs. F. J. Lord, F. Seyde, H. W. Hodges, P. T. Deakin, were elected members.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Co. for a copy of their recently published handbook on Shanghai, by W. B. Thornhill.

Mr. W. B. Avery then exhibited his magnificent collection of South African

stamps. The well-filled pages of wood-blocks, with the various errors and varieties, all in superb condition and in a fine range of shade, were especially remarkable. Mr. Avery took very considerable pains in carefully explaining all the minor details of some of the rarer varieties.

Mr. M. P. Castle, who had made a special journey for the benefit of the Society, brought with him a grand collection of his Europeans. Issue 111. Oldenburgs; early unused French, including several 1 fr., vermilion, and a grand strip of 15 c., green; Saxony, including a unique block of four of the error $\frac{1}{2}$ neu gr.; Tuscany (several hundreds, a large proportion being unused); Spain, unique strips and blocks of rare values; Sweden, &c., which excited the admiration of all.

Mr. C. A. Stephenson was elected a member of the Committee in place of Mr. D. Ostara, who has removed to Manchester.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—A. DE WORMS.

THE sixth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, December 31st, at 7.45 p.m. Present : Messrs. M. P. Castle, C. R. Morse, W. T. Willett, E. E. Manwaring, J. W. Gillespie, O. Pfenninger, R. J. Thrupp, A. de Worms, H. Stafford Smith, and two visitors, Messrs. W. F. Ellerton and H. C. J. Bunbury. The President in the chair.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Dr. S. Burrows and Mr. H. C. J. Bunbury were both elected members of the Society.

Mr. Willett read a paper on the stamps of St. Helena, in which he gave a very descriptive account of the different issues and the numerous variations of the surcharges. He also showed his collection, which contained several specimens of every variety in fine condition, unused.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Willett for his interesting paper.

THE seventh and annual general meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, January 14th, at 7.45 p.m. Present : Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. H. Redman, J. W. Gillespie, O. Pfenninger, C. R. Morse, H. Stafford Smith, E. E. Manwaring, W. T. Willett, P. de Worms, A. de Worms, H. Bunbury. The President in the chair.

The minutes of the last annual general meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Manchester Society, stating that the proposal to form a "Federation Exchange" had been abandoned.

The Hon. Secretary submitted the annual report for the session of 1893-94, and the balance sheet for the past year, ending December 31st, 1894, showing that the Society is in a prosperous condition. The report and balance sheet were received and adopted. Mr. Thrupp being unable to attend the meeting, the Hon. Secretary read his report of the Exchange Circuit for the past year, which contained suggestions for some alterations in the rules. The report and suggestions were adopted.

The Officers and Committee for the ensuing year were then all unanimously re-

elected, with the exception of Mr. Woodman, who resigned, and Mr. Thrupp was elected in his place.

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE session of 1893-94 was inaugurated by a dinner given on October 16th, 1893, to Messrs. Castle and Willett, on the occasion of their return home from a tour round the world. The chair was taken by the Honorary President, Baron de Worms, who was supported by a large number of members. During the session 16 meetings were held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton. The President took the chair on eleven occasions, Mr. Willett on three, and Mr. J. W. Gillespie on two. At the first meeting a syllabus for the session was drawn up, and papers were read on the stamps of Victoria by the President; Belgium, by the Vice-President; Holland and Colonies, by Mr. J. W. Gillespie; United States, by Mr. Woodman; Great Britain, by Mr. Willett; Roumania, by Mr. Thomas; British Guiana, Mauritius, Antigua, and British Honduras, by the Hon. Secretary; and Swiss Forgeries, by Mr. Pfenninger. Mr. Willett presented to the Society a large photographic group of its members, taken by Mr. Pfenninger. The Society already possessing a copy, it was suggested that the presentation should be made to the London Philatelic Society, which was agreed to. It was decided that a collection of "forgeries" should be formed by the Society, which prompted Mr. Willett to make a present of an album for the same. It was agreed that a Librarian should be appointed in the person of Mr. Pfenninger, and a resolution passed that the sum of £5 be handed over to him out of the Society's funds for the purchase of books. At an annual general meeting held on January 1st, 1894, officers and committee for the ensuing year were elected; the Secretary presented a balance-sheet and report for the past session; Mr. Thrupp also made his report respecting the Exchange Circuit; nine new members were elected, and there was one resignation, making the total number of members 30. Exchange packets from the Manchester Philatelic Society were handed round at several meetings.

[We are compelled to defer reports of the Manchester and other societies.—Ed.]

The Market.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER.

THE following are some of the best and most interesting prices attained at the sale held on January 30th and 31st ult. A special article will be found elsewhere on the *rarest* of the specimens, giving the prices which they realised :

Hanover, 1856, $\frac{1}{10}$ th, wide network, unused	£	s.	d.
Ditto, 10 gros., vertical pair, unused	6	12	6
Oldenburg, 1st issue, $\frac{1}{16}$ th, rose, unused	5	5	0
Ditto, 2nd issue, $\frac{1}{3}$ gros., black on green, unused	9	9	0
Austria, Newspaper stamp, head of Mercury, 30 kr., rose, on part original	6	0	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie, red, horizontal pair (a record !)	30	0	0
Moldavia, 54 paras, blue on green	12	12	0
Levant, 1870, Provisional, 2 pias., red and blue	5	15	0
Switzerland, Basle, $2\frac{1}{2}$ rap., blue and red, unused	7	5	0
Geneva, double stamp, joined	10	0	0
Zurich, 4 rap., Type IV., horizontal lines	13	0	0
Ditto, ditto, Type II., vertical lines	12	12	0
Ceylon, 1s. 9d., green, unused	4	4	0
India, Service, 4 as., green and lilac, unused	7	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 8 as.	13	10	0
Labuan, Provisional, 6 c., in red, on 16 c., blue	8	0	0
Philippines, lithographed, 5 c., red, block of four, showing types	10	0	0
Cape, Woodblock, 1d., red, unused	5	5	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., vermilion on bluish, early state of plate, unused	10	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, on yellow, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used	6	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d., blue, early state	15	0	0
Ditto, large fillet	17	0	0
Ditto, Envelope stamp, 1/-, yellow, cut square, unused	6	0	0
United States, 1869, complete set, unused	11	11	0
Confederate States, Mobile, 2 c., black	6	6	0
Canada, 6d., purple-black, on laid paper, unused	6	0	0
Newfoundland, 4d., orange-red, unused	9	0	0
Ditto, 6d., orange-red, unused	8	0	0
Ditto, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., carmine-red, unused	10	0	0
Ditto, 1s., carmine-red, unused	24	0	0
British Colombia, 10 c., blue, imperf., unused	4	10	0
Nova Scotia, 6d., yellow-green, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, 1s., violet	7	0	0

Trinidad, lithographed, coarse impression, 1d., greenish-blue, unused	11	0	0
British Guiana, 1st issue, 12 c., black, on thick blue paper	5	10	0
Ditto, 1856, 4 c., black on crimson, unused	19	0	0
Ditto, 1853, 1 c., vermilion, unused	5	10	0
Ditto Provisional 1862, 1 c., black on rose, border of pearls, No. 17 on plate	7	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, border of grapes, No. 23	8	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 2 c., black on yellow, vertical imperf. pair, Nos. 6 and 12	18	5	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, border of pearls, No. 18	6	10	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, border of grapes, No. 21	5	10	0
Ditto, 4 c., black on blue, border of hearts and pearls, No. 5, unused	13	13	0
Colombia, error, 50 c., red	17	0	0
Guadalajara, 1867, medio real, white, pair	8	0	0
Dominican Republic, un real, black on yellow, unused	9	15	0
N. S. W., Laureated, 8d., orange, imperf.	8	10	0
S. Australia, 1s., yellow, rouletted, unused	9	0	0
W. Australia, 1st issue, 2d., brown on red, unused	10	10	0
Ditto, 6d., bronze	5	5	0
Ditto, 1s., brown, rouletted, unused	12	0	0
Tasmania, 1st issue, 4d., orange, unused	5	0	0
Sandwich Islands, 1st issue, 5 c., blue, unused (not fine)	34	0	0
Ditto "Inter Island" 1 c. and 2 c., light blue, unused	5	15	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

The forty-sixth sale, held on January 25th, included

Great Britain, 3d., secret dot, imperf., unused	£	s.	d.
Hanover, 10 gros., green	2	6	0
Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, cross	4	10	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie	8	10	0
Two Sicilies, 1st issue, 50 gr.	2	2	0
Ceylon, 8d., deep brown, imperf.	5	5	0
British Honduras, 3c. on 3d., perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	0
Virgin Islands, 6d., carmine, perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	0	0
N.S.W. "Registered," double impression	3	3	0
New Zealand, pelure paper, 1d., orange-vermilion, perf. 13	7	0	0
Ditto, wmk. N Z, 1d., carmine-vermilion, perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	13	0	0
Ditto, pelure, 1s., deep green, perf. 13	5	0	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow	3	12	6

THE
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No. 39.

The Death of the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch.



It is but two short months since these columns acknowledged the receipt of a communication from the Grand Duke, anent the suppositious stamps of H.I.M. the Czar, and to-day we have the sad task of penning the obituary of our illustrious colleague. The Grand Duke had apparently been of a delicate constitution, and when the signs of consumption began to manifest themselves, grave fears as to his future lease of life were entertained by his august relatives. Neither climate nor medical skill have sufficed to extend the all too short life to twenty years, and if the ancient adage is true, the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch has well secured the love of the gods.

The members of the London Philatelic Society were prompt in their transmission of their deep and respectful sympathy with H.I.M. the Czar, the Grand Duke Michael, and the other illustrious relatives of the deceased; but beyond this we are confident that we are voicing the unanimous feeling when we state that the loss of a member as illustrious as the late Grand Duke, as scientific as he was amiable, is one that has called forth the unfeigned sympathies and regret of each and all.

Philately rests upon too firm a base to rely absolutely upon Royal or aristocratic support, still there can be no doubt but that the prestige attaching to the connection of Royalty to any pursuit, is in the case of stamp collecting apparent and undeniable. In the case of our illustrious *confrère*, the connection was real and living. The late Grand Duke was a distinguished and ardent student of the stamps themselves: he spared neither time nor money in the formation of his collection, and had Providence seen otherwise

fit, would have certainly acquired a fame as a Philatelist that would, irrespective of his Imperial birth, have placed him in the first flight of scientific Philatelists. We venture therefore to tender to his sorrowing relatives, on behalf of all connected with the pursuit, the most sincere and profound sympathy at the premature curtailment of so bright and promising a life.

The First Shanghai Stamps.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON MARCH 8TH, 1895.

BY T. WICKHAM JONES.



As a collector of Shanghai stamps, I was very much interested in Mr. Thornhill's papers on these stamps, which appeared in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* for March, April, June, and July, 1893. I think Mr. Thornhill is to be congratulated on the great pains and attention he has given, more especially to the first issue of these stamps. As regards the different varieties he catalogues, I think they show the most careful study; and this is proved by the fact that of the nearly 100 varieties (99) he mentions, I have been able to get almost all, and also to identify them with his descriptions, except as regards the 4 Candareens, of which I must say the description is vague.

Also of the great number of copies, that through specializing have passed through my hands, I have hardly seen one that I could definitely declare had not been mentioned by Mr. Thornhill.

At the same time I was not able to agree with all Mr. Thornhill's deductions; but as I was told that a handbook on these stamps was shortly going to be published, I awaited this before deciding to go in for criticism. Being well aware that Mr. Thornhill is most careful in his Philatelic studies, I thought it most likely that he would give in his handbook some additional evidence to prove his former arguments.

At last (this paper was begun in Jan.) the handbook has made its appearance and I must own to some feeling of disappointment in finding that it is almost the same as the old papers—in fact in many instances word for word the same, and that there is very little new information; but what little there is, curiously tends to upset many of Mr. Thornhill's previous theories.

As this paper refers entirely to the large rectangular stamps, I think it may be as well to give you, for the information of those who have not read Mr. Thornhill's book, a short outline of his remarks on these stamps.

He begins with the date of issue, and then proceeds to consider,

What the dies were made of?

How set up and mode of printing?

How many different papers were used?

He divides the Issue into 9 groups, and endeavours to prove the number and order of the various printings, with conclusions as to originals and to reprints.

I would again congratulate Mr. Thornhill on his arrangement of the stamps into groups, but will take his other divisions *seriatim*, calling attention where I think some of his deductions are unsound, or where I think I may be able to give some little information, or raise some new points for further discussion and solution.

Date.—This is generally given as 1865. M. Moens is quoted as naming October, 1865, but later on Mr. Thornhill says the date is uncertain, and with this I entirely agree.

It was certainly before October, 1865, as in *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* for 15th November, 1865, this issue is mentioned, as far as concerns the 2, 8, and 16 Candareens, and an illustration is given of the 2 Candareens (please notice the Candareens and not Candareen.)

This at any rate shows that this issue must have been made by August, or very early in September, for it to have reached Europe in time to be illustrated in a magazine dated 15th November. If it is a fact (?) that the first stamps printed were those with Candareen in the singular for all the values, then it proves that the first date of issue must have been still earlier than the date I have given. Mr. Thornhill says he has seen a copy postmarked August 10th; but this, he says, he is doubtful of as regards the postmark, but perhaps his doubts as to the genuineness of the postmark are owing to the date.

In an old collection made in Shanghai, which recently came into my possession, and in which several other *exact* dates of issues are correctly given, 1864 is named as the date of the earliest stamp.

What the Dies were made of and how set up.—We must remember, in approaching this subject:—That there is no doubt this first issue of stamps was printed in China. That the art of printing was known in China in the middle of the tenth century, some centuries before it was known in Europe. That most likely the knowledge of this art was originally obtained from the Chinese, and that it is very possible that some more or less Chinese mode of printing was adopted, especially as regards the setting up and printing of these stamps.

As regards the material of the die, we must again remember that the Chinese are the finest carvers in the world, and I think it most likely that the centre bit was made in China. The appearance of the stamps is no guide, for the same could be obtained from wood, copper, or steel, and most likely *ivory*, although this last article, as a material for a die, is *unknown* in this country, or at any rate by any of the practical men I have consulted.

Mr. Thornhill tells us any practical printer can say if it is usual for a die to be made up of different substances, but he does not seem to have taken the trouble to ask a practical man. I can tell him there is no difficulty at all in so doing.

There is no doubt whatever in my mind that Mr. Thornhill is correct in his surmise that "the Postmaster had his bits and centre piece, and when he wanted any stamps, put the die together for a certain value, and *only struck off a few, enough for present use*"; that then if the Postmaster wanted some

other value, he took the die to pieces and set it up again with a different value, and so on.

This being so, why should Mr. Thornhill afterwards, and as I shall refer to later on, try to limit the different printings, or issues, as he calls them, to four?

How printed—hand or machine?—Mr. Thornhill says a glance at strips will show at once that the stamps were *hand-stamped*, as the impressions are not the same distance apart, nor in the same straight line, and not equally upright. He gives one or two other reasons, closing the subject by stating he thinks no more arguments are required to show the stamps were *hand-stamped*.

I should say that to this paragraph is added the following foot-note: "If not printed by hand, a very crude printing press must have been used."

Again, I think it is a pity Mr. Thornhill did not consult one or more practical men; he would have found a consensus of opinion that the stamps were *not* hand-stamped.

They would have told him that it was practically impossible to get the impressions we have from hand-stamping. If instead of saying hand-stamping Mr. Thornhill had said hand-printing, he would have been nearer the mark, and the several gentlemen who have very kindly gone closely into the matter with me are unanimous in the following opinions:

1st. That these strips *could* have been printed from stereotyped copies of one die, six stereotypes being roughly placed or fastened in one block, but this they agree is most unlikely to have been the case, for if so the blocks would have been kept, and we should not find all the different varieties that we now possess.

2nd. That they were printed from one die, and the strips passed and rolled over the die, most likely by hand, and then I believe the technical expression is "pulled off."

3rd. That the so-called reprints are not lithographed, but prepared by exactly the same process as the other stamps.

Different kinds of paper.—I think here Mr. Thornhill has been very careful, but I shall have to refer to these again later on, when speaking of the different printings or emissions. There are certainly three very distinct kinds of paper, viz., what is known as bank paper, laid paper, and poor quality wove paper. Mr. Thornhill makes six kinds of paper, and this can be done, but whether some of his minor differences are not the same paper, only a different making, is almost impossible to tell, without allowing, as one of my practical friends dearly wished to do, your stamps to be torn, pulped, licked, and generally smashed up. This course, even although I am very anxious to arrive at a definite conclusion, I flatly refused to adopt.

I shall be pleased to submit to my friend the specimens of any gentleman who is desirous of sacrificing his collection for the general good, and I can promise him his specimens will be utterly spoilt.

Dates of Emission.—As regards the dates of the different printings or emissions, Mr. Thornhill gives the series with Candareen in the singular first, and then argues that because the 3, 6, and 12 Candareens, which, as

we know, were issued later (viz., about Dec., 1865,) than the other values, are printed with the final s, viz., Candareens, that therefore there was at the time of these values being issued, an issue existing with Candareens in the plural, and this series he calls Issue 2. Therefore the series or group in which he places the 3, 6, and 12 Candareens Mr. Thornhill puts down as Issue 3.

His Group VI., which are those with the 1, 12, and 16 Candareens having the Roman I, he considers Issue 4.

With regard to his Groups VII., VIII., IX., Mr. Thornhill tells us he has come to no conclusion, but he believes them all reprints, or at any rate not sold for postal purposes.

Now I venture to be bold enough to say that all this is pure conjecture, without any solid foundation, and I will give you my reasons.

I know that all the catalogues put the stamps with Candareen in the singular as those first issued, but I think the fact should not be forgotten that the first illustration in a Philatelic journal, viz., in *Maury's Magazine*, 15th Nov., 1865, shows Candareens, or Candareen in the plural. Also that the stamps sent, most likely some time early in Oct., by "Stampede" to *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, and mentioned by that journal in January, 1866, "as having been in use some time," are all the values showing Candareens in the plural.

That it was not till March 6th, 1866, that "Stampede" forwarded the stamps with Candareen in the singular, and that these are mentioned in the June number of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* as having been received just before going to press.

Mr. Thornhill does not give a separate issue to the series printed on laid paper, which has the value in the singular; but undoubtedly this would have been the case, for they would not at the same time have printed on two different kinds of paper.

Again, say we admit for the purpose of argument that the stamps first printed were those with Candareen in the singular, then how do we account for the fact that the 3 Candareen, which was printed much later than some of the other values, and was issued at the same time as the 6 and 12 Candareens, appears with Candareen both in the singular and plural, the 6 and 12 Candareens being with the plural only.

As for Mr. Thornhill's argument, that because the 3, 6, and 12 Candareens appear with Candareens in the plural, therefore there must have been a previous issue like this. Is it not possible (again presuming that the value with Candareen in the singular was printed first) that if, as it has been thought, Candareen in the singular was printed in error, this error was not discovered or altered till these new values were printed.

Once more I must point out, although I am afraid you will think I am giving a good deal of repetition, that the 3 Cand. appears with Candareen in the singular.

Why also should the issue with the Roman numeral in conjunction with the antique be placed as a fourth emission?

Rather, is it not far more likely that there were any number of printings? In fact, Mr. Thornhill, as I called attention to before, says that most likely the Postmaster printed these stamps as required, especially as "Stampede"

states in his letter, before referred to, dated Shanghai, March 6th, 1865, "that a friend of his informed him that he went to the Post-Office for some stamps, and that not having the ones he required already printed, they struck off some while he waited."

Also that it is possible these stamps were printed by some Chinaman, ignorant of English, or as Maury says, "On ne semble pas attacher une grande importance à notre s marque du pluriel." If a batch were started with the 1 Candareen the whole of the stamps of every value printed that time were, or might be, printed in the singular, as the printer probably only took the trouble to alter the value, and did not otherwise interfere with the setting up of the inscription.

Again, might it not so happen, as suggested in the May number of *Le Timbre-Poste* for 1866, that these stamps were printed by an Englishman in doubt as to whether Candareen was singular or plural? So in order to make matters straight he printed a part with and a part without the final s.

The appearance also of the paper seems to prove that there were many different printings, even on the same kind of paper, for a practical man, in carefully going through the different papers with me, remarked that several stamps were printed on the same kind and quality of paper, but not on paper that had been manufactured at the same time, or, in other words, paper of the same *make*, but not of the same making.

Originals and Reprints.—Mr. Thornhill says he is "convinced that all stamps found on the same paper as the admitted reprints of Pemberton's Handbook, viz., his Group IX., are reprints." That he is "equally convinced that the groups with Candareen in singular, the groups with Candareens in the plural, all with antique numerals, or with a Roman numeral in conjunction with an antique numeral, are originals." He then goes on, "I do not know what to say about my Groups VII. and VIII. I do not like the look of most of them, and should be inclined to call them reprints. *All* with modern numerals have a dubious look about them, and with only nine month's circulation it is hardly likely all were genuinely struck for postal purpose." In the remarks on Group IX. Mr. Thornhill states that the interior line of the centre bit is, in most cases, totally absent, and that the stamps have a lithographic look; that a used copy is unknown; then that he has some stamps headed, "The whole of these stamps imported direct in 1868-9." The 6 Cands. (I presume the dull green) and 12 Cands. of Pemberton set of reprints being with them, he holds that all these are reprints, the fact that they came from Shanghai in 1868-9 rather confirming his idea.

I think it will here be convenient, as it specially applies to the question of reprints, to refer to Mr. Thornhill's remarks as to when the different printings of the first issue were made. As regards Groups VII., VIII., and IX., which he believes to be all reprints, or, as he says, were sold at the Post-office, but not for *postal purposes*, he argues that because a notice appeared in the *China Daily News* (November, 1865) that letters were charged 1 Cand. to subscribers, and 2, 3, 6, and 12 Cands. to non-subscribers, and the 4, 8, and 16 Cands. are not mentioned, that therefore it was a lowering of the rates. That the 4, 8, and 16 Cands. were not in use after March or April, 1866, to which date, Mr.

Thornhill says, antique numerals only were used, and therefore that all the stamps with 4, 8, and 16 Cands. with modern numerals are reprints. So if they are reprints, why not all the other stamps with the value in modern numerals?

Now I join issue with Mr. Thornhill in all the above deductions.

In the first place I do not allow that because Pemberton calls certain stamps reprints this has ever been admitted as a fact, or, as Mr. Thornhill elsewhere says, acknowledged.

Mr. Thornhill contradicts himself, for in his Group VIII. he has stamps with the antique numeral. Also many of the stamps with antique numerals have little, and, in some cases, none of the interior line, and also the same look (though this is not lithographic), and you will see in my collection a used copy of his Group IX.

As regards a nine months' issue, as I said at first, the stamps were certainly printed before the middle of September, 1865, and the official notice of 5th March, 1866, which fixes the exact date of the second issue, and which I quote in full from *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* of June, 1866, does not *withdraw* the first issue, but only says the old stamps can be *exchanged* for new.

Copy of notice :

“LOCAL POST-OFFICE.

“No. 22. New postage stamps having been received from England will be in use on and from this date ; persons holding old stamps can have them exchanged for new upon application to the Manager of the local Post-office.

“By order of the Council,

“ALEX. JOHNSTON, *Secretary*.

“COUNCIL ROOM, SHANGHAI, 5th March, 1866.”

This, in the face of the letter which is printed from the present Shanghai Postmaster, but which curiously Mr. Thornhill does not make any comment on, stating that the old stamps were sold as late as December, 1871, and were not officially withdrawn until the cent issue of 1890 appeared, I claim entirely upsets the theory that because some first issue stamps came from Shanghai in 1868-9, therefore they were reprints.

The editor of the *Philatelist* evidently did not consider these stamps reprints, for, in November, 1869, he writes : “Amongst a quantity of the *earliest impressions* recently come into our possession we find the 6 Candareens, dull green.” Again, in December, 1869, he states : “The green 6 Cands. of the *first* emission are *perfectly genuine*, but may be called posthumous impressions ; it is of a similar hue to the 6 cents of present issue (1869), and was most probably prepared in the colour intended for future use *previous* to the employment of the smaller die.” Curiously “Stampede,” who was on the spot, and evidently thoroughly up in the subject (and in the confidence of the Post-office), writes from Shanghai, dated 8th March, 1866, that he should not be surprised to see the colour of this or of the 3 and 12 Cands. changed. (Does this at all explain the 12 Cands. of Mr. Thornhill's Group IX. in orange-red?) I have particularly referred to this 6 Cands., green, for it is on the

same paper as all the other stamps of Group IX., and if it is not a reprint, what about the others? How, in the face of the Postmaster's letter, can Mr. Thornhill say that these stamps were sold at the Post-office, but not for postal purposes? I might even add that if sold at the Post-office they are certainly entitled to as much respect as the thousands that are now sold in our own colonial Post-offices which are never used for postal purposes.

Now in respect to the supposed lowering of the rates.

In the first place the correct date of the official notice in the *China Daily News* is not the 15th November, but the 4th December, as will be seen by the following copy taken from the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* for June, 1866, which I give *in extenso*, as it is not reproduced by Mr. Thornhill :

"LOCAL POST-OFFICE.

"It is notified for general information that since the 15th ultimo all letters, circulars, newspapers, &c., sent to the local Post-office for 'town delivery,' are charged at the rate of one candareen each. To non-subscribers the following rates will, as heretofore, be charged for mail matter despatched to and received from the River, Coast, and Japan Ports :

Letters and Packages, native or foreign, 1 oz. and under,	3 candareens.
,, ,, above 1 oz. and under 2 oz.,	6 candareens.
,, ,, above 2 oz. ,, 4 oz.,	12 candareens.
Newspapers and printed circulars,	2 candareens.
For every additional or fractional part of an ounce,	3 candareens.

"With a view of ensuring security in the delivery of letters, a branch has been opened at Ningpo.

"By order of the Council,

"ALEX. JOHNSTON, *Secretary*.

"COUNCIL ROOM, SHANGHAI, 4th December, 1865."

Mr. Thornhill has been misled by this notice of the 4th December, "which states that since the 15th ultimo letters are charged at the following rates," but, as will be seen, there is no mention whatever about *stamps*, but only of cost. Why also, if the stamps were no longer in use after 15th November, does Mr. Thornhill give them life up to March or April?

But the whole deduction that these values were out of use falls utterly to the ground when we find these very values, only in cents instead of Candareens (exactly the same value, see *Le Timbre-Poste*, July 19th, 1867, or Mr. Thornhill's own remarks on Issue 2) being printed in the next issue, viz., the small rectangular issue. The notice distinctly states that the rates remain "as heretofore," *verb. sap.*

Concerning what Mr. Thornhill calls forgeries, viz. those which M. Moens catalogues as reimpresions, and describes as a "*nouveau type*," under date of 1874. I do not think these should have been passed over so lightly, especially as M. Moens states that they were admitted for postage purposes. One thing is very certain, they were issued by the Shanghai Post-office, and it will be noticed that the impressions of the dies reproduced in the Handbook, which impressions were lent specially to Mr. Binns by the Shanghai Postmaster, are of this type.

I hand round for your inspection the leaf of an album with some Shanghai

stamps evidently bought at the *Shanghai* Post-office on February, 1876, on which you will note the following :

1	Candareen,	blue ;	antique numeral.
2	Candareens,	black ;	M. Moens' <i>nouveau type</i> .
3	"	brown	" "
4	"	yellow ;	antique numeral.
6	"	brown	" "
8	"	green	" "
12	"	orange-red ;	modern numeral.
16	"	red-brown	" "

I will leave you to draw your own conclusions, but will only say if any of the large rectangular stamps were printed as "*articles de luxe*," it was this new type only.

In looking into the question of these stamps, I must say I was astonished to find the amount that had been written about them, and I have been most fortunate in having had at my disposal the valuable library of my good friend Mr. Bacon.

I am afraid I must own that had I at all realized the amount of research it engendered, I should have thought twice before undertaking the task.

It may be interesting, as showing why these large rectangular stamps are so rarely used, to explain that all the large offices, &c. paid an annual subscription to the local Post-office of 55 tael per annum, and had their correspondence sent *free* to them or without stamps. (*Vide Le Timbre-Poste*.) As it is from large business places where correspondence is filed, and not from private sources, that we generally get most of the old stamps, with these stamps we lose these happy hunting-grounds.

In conclusion, I would join with Mr. Thornhill in agreeing that these Shanghai stamps are most interesting, and afford reward for careful study. I would go further, and put in a plea for their better appreciation ; for, as the *Philatelist*, in a long and interesting paper on them, March, 1868, says : "They are an official issue, and not the speculation of any private company." I am sure Mr. Thornhill will not think that I am writing in a cavilling spirit, and I regret I have not had an opportunity of a verbal discussion with him ; but I have not had time to attempt an argumentative correspondence. I trust you will believe that my criticisms have been only with an honest desire to help in some slight way the unravelling of the tangled skein, as Mr. Thornhill wittily puts it, of the web of mystery and ignorance that surrounds the interesting, though perhaps rather ugly, large rectangular stamps of the first issue of Shanghai.



The Rock Ahead in Philately.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON FEBRUARY 22ND, 1895.

BY M. P. CASTLE.



HERE is significance in the simile indicated by the above title appealing with such readiness to us islanders that its lack of novelty may well be condoned. The good ship Philately, well found and well manned, has voyaged year in and year out with varying fortunes, but in the main has not only always escaped shipwreck, but has achieved a marked measure of success for her multifarious owners. In the earlier days of her voyages in these unknown waters, it was with apprehension that the Scylla of Forgeries and Facsimiles was regarded—an apprehension shared, as we well know, by our own Government, who adopted devices as elaborate as unnecessary in order to obviate all chances of unlawful reproduction. The danger of foundering on that rock has, however, now passed away. The cleverness of the forgers increased indeed, but the increase of skill on the part of the few rogues was more than counteracted by that of the many honest adherents of the cult. There seems, therefore, in the future of Philately, no real danger to its *existence* in the wide area of reproductions, from official reprints down to bogus issues, but only a gentle reminder that no pursuit is unaccompanied by drawbacks, and that these can be largely obviated by the due care and discrimination that should form an integral part of a collector's mental constituents.

The other rock ahead—the Charybdis—really looms ominously in the offing, and that threatens to have a disastrous effect upon Philately, even if it should not go so far as to make it a total wreck. I allude to the issue of speculative stamps. By this term I mean any series of stamps whose existence is not mainly, or in decided degree, called forth by public requirements, and is not in any way affected by the requirements of collectors. To say that the number of these needless issues is alarming is to beat the air indeed. The veriest schoolboy informs you that “they are all rot,” every Philatelic journal has its gibe against them, and the invective of the individual and more mature collector is of a nature quite unfit for reproduction. As one of the many I have deplored this flood of meaningless trash, and have certainly for one never been guilty of urging anyone to collect them. In several journals I have latterly read articles inveighing in the strongest terms against these latter-day impostors, and I have therefore thought it due that this Society should have an opportunity of expressing its views upon a question that, in my humble judgment, is fraught with an interest to Philately of the gravest import. With this view I have made a short analysis of the new issues during the past year from the pages of M. A. Maury's Supplement to the *Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* for December last. I do not guarantee

that my figures are absolutely correct, but practically they are near enough for us to form a fairly reliable basis of calculation as to the number and relative necessity for the several issues. I should explain that I have adopted the grouping of countries followed in the chronicle of novelties in the *London Philatelist*.

Synopsis of New Issues during 1894.

I.	II.	III.	IV.
GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.	EUROPE.	AMERICA.	OTHER COUNTRIES.
Stamps 70	77	100	407
Envelopes 16	6	24	40
Post Cards 13	25	22	56
Total 99	108	146	503

Synopsis of Countries in Column IV.

	STAMPS, ENVELOPES, AND POST CARDS.
French Colonies	184
Portuguese Colonies	102
Chinese Ports	53
Balance of other Countries	164
	503

Now for purposes of comparison I propose to re-divide the groups into two divisions, which I call—

A. Legitimate Issues.

Great Britain and Colonies	99
Europe	108
America	146
Less South and Central America	127
	19
Other countries	503
Less French and Portuguese Colonies and China	339
	164
	390

B. Illegitimate Issues.

French and Portuguese Colonies and China	339
South and Central America	127
	466

In order to better glance at this obvious disparity I append table of population:

South and Central America estimated (<i>Bartholomew's Gazetteer</i>)	121,713,000
Less United States, Canada, Brazil, and Mexico	89,000,000
	32,713,000
French Colonies	32,610,000
Portuguese Colonies	14,620,000
Chinese Ports, say	2,000,000
	81,943,000

Total population of the world less foregoing countries—1397,786,000.

It will thus be seen that whereas the number of stamps issued is about one-seventh more in B, the population is nearly fourteen times as great in the case of the legitimately issuing countries. It will of course be observed that in the population of the world there are vast masses of people unaware of the advantages of the Postal system; but this argument applies fully as strongly to the illegitimate countries, as it includes in Annam, Tonquin, Algeria, Soudan, Madagascar, Angola, and the Chinese ports, nearly forty millions, or one half of the total population. To take another aspect of the case, after deducting the last-named uncivilised nations, there remain about forty-one millions; whereas in Europe alone there are 360 millions, or nearly nine times as many. Europe issued 108 stamps, the offending group 466, or more than four times as many. From this it will be seen that, considered relatively to the population, the novelties in this speculative issuing group are *thirty-six times as many as in Europe*. When one considers that even among the forty millions of the former there are probably not in all ten per cent. of educated people or of white men, the anomaly of these issues is glaringly apparent. It was with this object that I have made these few calculations, feeling convinced that these facts could not be too widely spread, in order to still further open the eyes of collectors as to the nature of the Philatelic goods so bounteously provided for their benefit (?).

It is doubtless far easier to produce a grievance than to suggest a remedy. I venture to suggest that there are, however, several ways in which some amelioration of a growing evil might be attained.

1st. By the action of collectors in ignoring as far as possible these needless issues. I am aware that as long as there are general collectors, printed albums, and stamp dealers, it is inevitable that there will be a demand for these stamps; but if the great dealers only purchase what they must have, and the great body of the more advanced collectors throughout the world either refuse to accept them or to pay more than a nominal sum, it would have a tendency to reduce the quantities brought forth, as no one would stock goods that were not likely to be of eventual value.

2nd. It is possible that if the leading Philatelic body in the several countries made due representations to their Governments, calling attention to the palpable scandal caused by these issues, some good might result. Constant dropping of water will wear away a stone, and the long series of Philatelic grumbles in this country anent the speculative issues and surcharges, has at least been of great value in urging forward the authorities of this Empire, to such universally welcomed steps as the extinction of stamp speculation in Ceylon, St. Helena, and other colonies. In the case of the French and Portuguese Governments, it does not seem a goal incapable of attainment, and I am of opinion that some co-operative step in this direction might with advantage be made as regards the leading Continental Societies. I suggest that the representations to the respective Governments should be made in each case by their own Philatelic subjects, but that an international agreement might be arrived at among the Societies of the leading European nations as to the nature of these representations. This naturally savours of a conference, nor do I think that such a meeting, with duly-accredited members or delegates, would necessarily result in failure. I can only say for one that

I am ready if invited to take part in it, either at Paris, Vienna, Berlin, or elsewhere. Whether this Society should take the initiative in the matter is of course a question requiring due consideration, but, as I said in the outset of this article, I consider the question of such vital import to Philately that no exertion can be too great in the effort to remedy the evil.

The pursuit of stamp collecting has grown to dimensions that was never dreamt of in by-gone days. The number of its adherents to and influence has increased many thousand fold, while the total value *invested* all over the world must be many millions of pounds. I lay stress upon the word *invested*, because, in view of the great popularity of the pursuit and the increasing demand for the rarer stamps, prices have increased to such an extent that only very rich men can make a fine collection out of their income. The very essence of the value attached to these little pieces of paper is the confidence felt by all and sundry that they are, to a great extent, of a realisable value. This confidence has but to be once rudely shaken, and our treasures would be of equal value with Confederate greenbacks or other disavowed paper money.

It follows then that not only a severe loss but a positive hardship would result to many among us in the case of anything like a "slump" in value; and it is the idea of protecting the investor, or the man who has put his savings into stamps, that renders it the duty of the Society to leave no stone unturned in its endeavour to place the pursuit on a firm and a lasting basis. It is, of course, no part of this Society's duty to labour that each collector shall have good value for his money, but it is absolutely incontestable that if confidence in the value of stamps is maintained, the pursuit of Philately will flourish exceedingly, and this is the *raison d'être* of the Society.

The Philbrick Collection.

BY GORDON SMITH.

(Continued from page 11.)

2½d.



ALL the plate numbers are well represented. A specimen of plate 1 is on very deeply-blued paper, and of the variety popularly supposed to be the rarest—plate 3; wmk. orb—there are three fine examples.

3d.

The earliest plate is No. 2, with what is called "reticulated background," and is here represented by two complete panes with margins, but of course with SPECIMEN on each stamp. Of plate 3 as issued there are a fine lot of shades, including some of a very deep colour, plate 3 (with white dots) imperf. only, perf. 4, wmk. spray (the scarcest variety of this value), three

copies, and also an impression from plate 4, imperforate, on plain white wove paper and ungummed. Of other imperforates on "spray" paper, we have plates 5, 6 (a pair), and 8, and perforated pairs of plate 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10, and a complete pane (20) of plate 20. Of the current type I note four distinct shades, two being in quite a pale brown.

4d.

On paper watermarked small garter, besides two good unused specimens, there are a fine lot of lightly-postmarked copies, including some very rich shades of carmine. On large garter paper there is a pair of a strikingly deep colour for this stamp, belonging to a very early printing, and a specimen in a pale shade on a paper of decidedly yellowish tone. In the normal shade there are two blocks of four, one block having the wmk. inverted. Of plate 3 there is a pair, some good shades of plate 4 (with hair lines), and three imperforate specimens.

There is a pair of plate 7 as well as of plate 10 (the scarcest plate). In plates 15 and 16 in green are pale and deep tints, and plate 17 (garter) is amply represented by a block of 6, a pair and 4 singles. There is also the current type with three varieties of margin.

4½d.

In this, the newest of all values, we get two varieties of margin.

5d.

Of the earlier types little can be said, but we have the current stamp with three variations of the margins.

6d.

Among the octagonals are found brilliant pairs with gum in mauve, red-violet, and violet, as well as six singles. In plate 1 there are three fine pairs in different shades; some of the singles have a yellowish-brown gum. In the next two plates (3 and 4) there is quite a range of selected shades, in plate 3 a complete pane of 20, but with SPECIMEN, and in plate 4 a pair as well as three imperforate singles; a fine lot of plate 5, and a pair and two singles of plate 6 (the rarest of this value), complete the "emblems" paper. An impression from plate 6 imperforate, and on plain white wove paper and ungummed, is a companion of the 3d. plate 4 above mentioned. Plate 6, on spray paper, exhibits a wider range of colour than any other stamp, and includes three in a pale bright violet, but differing in tint *inter se*. We have imperforate specimens of plates 8 and 9, plate 11 in what I may call the three standard shades of brown, and a pair of plate 12 in pale buff, also plate 15 imperf. Subsequent issues call for no special comment.

8d.

In lilac-brown there are two specimens, one with SPECIMEN, and a pretty lot in the issued colours, one being noticeable for its almost exact similarity in shade, with an imperf. specimen, with SPECIMEN surcharged diagonally.

9d.

Of plate 2 (the earliest) three are pairs in bistre and in straw-colour, both very scarce in this state. In plate 4 there are four specimens on "emblems" paper, and among those on the spray paper, one in the earliest shade found on the "emblems" paper. The current type is shewn with three varieties of margins.

10d.

A fine lot of octagonals begins with a specimen from Die I. before it was numbered—a rare stamp. Of Die I. after the number had been inserted there is only a SPECIMEN copy, but Dies II., III., and IV. are well represented. In the surface-printed stamps I note a pair in a very pale shade, identical with a SPECIMEN copy, also a pair imperforate. There are two kinds of marginal frame of the present type.

1s.

In Die I. of the Octagonals we start with a very fine horizontal strip of three in the pale shade, generally seen surcharged SPECIMEN in red (of which there are a pair and a single), there is also an excellent single in the medium shade, and a fine example of Die II. Passing to the surface-printed stamps, there are eight specimens of the "no letters," all in different shades, and the same number of plate "1," also two imperforate specimens of plate "2." I must not forget here to mention that there is an unused specimen (believed to be unique) of the variety of plate "1" with a circle round the letter K in the left lower corner. Of plate 4, wmk. emblems, we find a pair in blue-green, and a pair in pale-green, the latter with yellow-brown gum. On the spray paper the earlier plates can be divided into two separate sets, with white and with yellow-brown gum, which adds considerably to the variety in the shades. There are pairs of plates 9 and 10, and two of plate 13 brown—the plate 13 in lilac is marked SPECIMEN. In later issues there is nothing striking.

2s.

There are five distinct shades of the blue, which I may term dull blue, bright blue, very dark, deep, and pale blue—in the last there is a pair. Three fine specimens in brown complete this value.

2s. 6d.

Three specimens on decidedly blue paper are followed by specimens on white, in shades from the early pale to the dark now current.

5s.

Plate 1 is represented by four examples—two in deep rose, and two in paler colour; plate 2 by two specimens, and plate 4 by two specimens—one on white and one on deep blue, both brilliant copies. We also have the current stamp in the early pale shade.

IOS.

Both the early varieties—watermarked Maltese Cross and Anchor respectively—are here exemplified by brilliant specimens, and although of less importance, yet by no means to be despised, are two specimens of the current type in cobalt-blue. A curious fact about this latter colour is, that when placed beside the current shade the difference is much less apparent by daylight than it is by artificial light.

£1.

Here again we find the early type brilliantly represented by one specimen on Cross, and two on Anchor paper, both the latter being on blue paper, one very deep. In the oblong type there are two each with the different watermarks, and in the current green one imperforate.

£5.

Three (but all with SPECIMEN) on paper shewing different degrees of blueness.

In conclusion I may say that the general impression which Mr. Philbrick's collection gives me is, that although others may be of greater value, and contain greater rarities, no collection can bear on the face of it more strongly the truly philatelic spirit of its compiler. The range of shades alone is, I should say, unequalled in any collection, and the separation of some of the earliest of the surface-printed stamps into two sets, with white and yellow-brown gums is here effected for the first time.

Not the least in interest are the essays, proofs, and trials, which form part of the collection, and which include many unchronicled pieces; but although I am afraid these are appreciated by a very few, yet their existence should be put on record, for the time may arrive when the tide of fashion in collecting may set in in their favour.

Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

DISCOVERIES.


GREAT BRITAIN.—We have been shewn by Mr. W. Ridout a variety of the fourpenny value that (with bated breath!) we confess to not having heard of previously. It is the first issued of this series with the watermark of Small Garter on blueish safety paper *imperforate*. The specimen in question consists of an apparent pair; *i.e.* one stamp and the upper half of

the one adjoining, extending beyond the outer margin, so that above it represents two stamps *se tenant*. The margins of the undamaged stamp seem quite satisfactory, and bear no trace of having ever been perforated. The cancellation is apparently metropolitan, and normal white. The stamp, we believe, was rescued from waste paper stores—"hence these tears"!

NEW ZEALAND.—It is the unexpected that always arrives in the issues of this country, and we have to note a variety or vagary of perforation that certainly never crossed the threshold of our experience in things Oceanic. The stamp, which has been submitted to us by Mr. W. Ridout, is the one shilling, watermark N.Z., perforated vertically 13 as usual, but above and below having large rough punctures gauging about 6. The stamp is very long; *i.e.* having big margin at top and bottom, and would, without these punctures, pass as imperforate horizontally. This was probably its *raison d'être*, the deficiency being supplied in the guise of these large punctures, but whether privately or quasi-officially is a question to be yet decided. There is nothing to militate against the good faith of the specimen, in our opinion, and it therefore represents another, if minor, obstacle to be overcome in the difficult task of making a complete collection of the New Zealand stamps. Mr. Ridout also notes a specimen of the one shilling, watermark N.Z., imperforate, bearing as cancellation (D)UNEDIN AP. 1865, which considerably antedates those published by the Committee of the London Philatelic Society in our issue of October last.

VICTORIA.—Mr. R. Ehrenbach has received two specimens of the 2s., blue, perf. 12, of 1864, on the normal dull yellowish paper, but without watermark. We have examined these stamps carefully, and are also unable to find any trace of the watermark. They constitute probably, as previously mentioned in these notes, varieties in the sheet that have accidentally escaped, and of which several like instances have been discovered.

MARGINAL WATERMARK LETTERS.

 WE have been shewn by Mr. W. T. Wilson specimens of some stamps, bearing what purport to be portions of the maker's name, watermarked probably at the sides of the sheets. The following are the varieties in question:

- Tasmania, 1d., thin paper, no watermark (1856-7), with a large double-lined "A" horizontally placed, with the point of the letter to the right of the stamp.
- Western Australia, 6d., no watermark (1864), one with similar letters "SA," and another with a portion of the letter "S," occupying the same position as the first-named.



Occasional Notes.

Death of H. R. H. The Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch.

IT is with deep and respectful regret that we have to announce the loss of this most illustrious member of the London Philatelic Society. The Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch died at San Remo on the second of March. He was the seventh son of the Grand Duke Michael, brother of the Czar Alexander II., and was consequently first cousin to the late Czar Alexander III. He was born at Tiflis in December, 1875, and was thus only nineteen years of age. We have referred elsewhere to this sad occurrence.

THE FUNERAL OF THE GRAND DUKE.

THE Grand Duke had been ordered to the South, and was staying at San Remo, when he succumbed to the rapid consumption under which he was suffering. His remains having been embalmed were conveyed, amidst a most imposing demonstration of regret and esteem—Royal, military, naval, and popular—to the Railway Station *en route* for St. Petersburg, where they arrived on the 11th March. A description of the final obsequies in the capital, which we take from the daily press, will doubtless be read with interest by all Philatelists:

“The Grand Duke Michael Nicolaievitch, father of the deceased, with his remaining sons, and Prince Max of Baden, travelled in the train from Gatschina, to which place they had proceeded by special train at an earlier hour, in order to accompany the body into St. Petersburg. On the platform, awaiting the arrival of the train, stood the Emperor and Empress, all the Grand Dukes and Grand Duchesses, and the members of the Imperial household, together with a large number of clergy, headed by the Metropolitan.

“After a short prayer had been offered the coffin was lifted out of the train and borne by the Grand Duke Michael Nicolaievitch and the brothers of the deceased to the funeral car, on which it was placed by a detachment of the Palace Grenadiers. Then the funeral procession was formed, and, headed by the Metropolitan and the clergy of the capital to the number of several hundreds, the *cortège* advanced slowly along the Nevsky Prospect. Eight officers, four of them Aides de Camp to the Grand Duke Michael Nicolaievitch, and four Generals, acted as pall-bearers. The car was drawn by eight horses with postilions, and alongside walked naval officers, bearing upon cushions the Orders of the deceased.

“The Czar and his grand uncle, the Grand Duke Michael Nicolaievitch, walked immediately behind the funeral car. Then came all the Grand Dukes and the

members of the Imperial suite, and, following them in mourning carriages, the Empress Alexandra Feodorovna, the Grand Duchesses Maria Paulovna, Elisabeth Feodorovna, Xenia Alexandrovna, Elina Vladimirovna, and the ladies of the Court. A company of the Palace Grenadiers, a guard of honour from the Naval College, and the cadets from the Artillery School brought up the rear.

"The Nevsky Prospect and the other streets through which the *cortège* passed were filled with large crowds of spectators, on whom no restrictions were imposed by the police. Their demeanour was throughout orderly and decorous. The bands of the various Corps represented in the procession played funeral marches in turn all along the route to the Church of the Fortress, into which the coffin was borne by the Emperor and the Grand Dukes, and there placed on a catafalque erected in the middle of the church. The remains were interred in the Church of the Fortress on the subsequent day."

THE LATE MR. C. K. JONES.

TO the modern collector, the sad news that the Reaper has secured another victim bearing the above appellation may bear but little significance. Mr. C. K. Jones, however, formed a distinct link in the chain of ancient Philatelic memories, and his decease a few weeks since, of consumption, in London, at the age of 53, will be regretted by many like ourselves, who knew him in the past. To the Philatelic world thirty years since, and for several years subsequent, the names of C. K. Jones & Co., of Ardwick, and afterwards Steinau Jones & Co., of Corporation Street, Manchester, were familiar as household words. Long and copious advertisements in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* and other journals betokened the wide extent of their dealings, and indeed for several years the name of Mr. Jones' firm was a power in the land, alongside of Messrs. Young and Stockall, before which the then little known name of Stanley Gibbons "paled its ineffectual fires." It is curious to read in Mr. Jones' advertisements (in the *S. C. M.* of 1863)

Saxony, 3 pfennig	Price 2/6.
New Brunswick, 6d.	„ 9d.
Nova Scotia, 6d.	„ 9d.

while Oldenburgs, Tuscany, and Hanover, as barely superseded, could be supplied, unused, at about twice face value! Mr. Jones also had considerable dealings in the stamps of Great Britain with most of the leading Philatelists of his day, and no doubt regretted that in the later portion of his life he had practically abandoned his Philatelic career.

ROBBERIES OF COLLECTIONS IN CANADA.

DARING system of theft has lately victimised some of our Canadian Philatelists. The plan adopted seems for the thief, in highly respectable attire, to call during the absence of the owner of the house, giving fictitious messages that he has an appointment, and is to wait. This he does, and employs the interval by quietly annexing any stamp albums that are available, and then calmly sails away, with a message to the domestics that he cannot wait any longer! Simple in the extreme, and to be avoided, here

or elsewhere, only by not leaving valuable books of stamps in promiscuous places, by keeping them under lock and key, and by giving strict injunctions that, in the absence of the owner, no one is to be shewn into the room in which they are kept. It is, however, one thing to steal stamps, and another to dispose of them, as in this lies the great hope of detection, which on behalf of our friends we trust may duly ensue. Dr. Cameron, of Montreal, who was one of the victims, is a member of the London Philatelic Society, and the writer had the pleasure of meeting him in that city a year or two since.

FORGED ROUMANIA AND PARMA STAMPS.

WE hear of fresh forgeries of the Parma stamps, Issue I. and II., which are said to closely resemble the originals, and are moreover very dangerous in being obliterated with the original postmarks, the dies of which, it is stated, are most unaccountably in the possession of an Italian railway official! Surely the Italian postal authorities should enquire into this! Fortunately the paper employed differentiates entirely from that of the originals, so that the impostors should be readily detected. The Roumanian imposition is the 50 bani, with beard (1872), but the inscriptions are too large, and it should not apparently be regarded as dangerous.

Reviews.

THE STAMPS OF HOLLAND AND ITS COLONIES.*



THE first volume of this work on the stamps of Holland and her colonies, compiled by eight members of the Philatelic Society of the Netherlands, and edited on behalf of the latter, has now appeared. As far as the adhesive issues are concerned it has greatly disappointed me, and I suppose all others who specialize the stamps of Holland. The reason of this, I suppose, is that specialists in this country go more into detail than our esteemed *confrères* on the other side of the Channel, for there is no reason to doubt that such able men and well-known Philatelists, as the compilers of this work, possess quite as much knowledge on their own stamps as we do. To begin with, we are left quite in the dark with regard to the first two issues, whether one die was used for the three values without the figures of values, these being then added for each, which I believe was the case, or whether a separate die was made for each of them. Further, they do not seem to have found out which of the 5 cents, blue, first issue, appeared first, the very light milky-blue or the darker shades. According to the rarity, I should be of the opinion that the very light one was the first, and

* *The Stamps of Holland and its Colonies.* (Standbeeldwerk over de Postwaarden van Nederland en gigne Kolonien.) J. Koning, Amsterdam.

so on. The remark about the die would apply even more in the case of the second issue. A careful examination of the corners of stamps of this issue distinctly points to the fact that the denominations of value, viz., 5, 10, 15, were added to the die. It is much to be regretted that these points have not been cleared up, and I sincerely hope that they will be made the subject of a further enquiry by our friends.

Concerning Issue III. the perforations given are very incomplete, and in some cases even wrong. For instance, a perforation $10\frac{1}{2}$ all round is an unknown quantity, these stamps being perforated $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$. The 15 c. thus perforated—a specimen of which is in the collection of Mr. M. P. Castle—is not mentioned at all. Leaving all the minor varieties of compound perforations out of the question, the small perforation 14, which exists in all values except the 25 and 50, ought certainly to have been mentioned; likewise the issue on bluish paper, on which all are known except the 25 and 50 cents. This paper was in use for the printing of various issues of the Dutch Colonies, and some sheets must have been used for the home stamps. M. Moens quotes this issue already in his old catalogue, and they all have the small perf. 14.

These remarks *re* the perforations apply more or less also to the later issues, and to the *unpaid* letter stamps. These latter, however, have been treated in a much more scientific manner than the stamps previously mentioned. The plates showing the respective quantities of the four types on each plate are highly interesting, and of great value, and they alone make the book worthy of any Philatelic library. In my view, by far the best part of the book, however, is that part which deals with the "Entires." The lists and descriptions of the envelopes and cards are, as far as I can gauge, as complete as could be wished for, and for these and the section which gives the official documents, etc., the authors deserve every praise.

That the imperforate varieties of the perforated issues have been left out, I presume has been done purposely, and in this I am quite at one with the authors; they have merely accidentally (?) made their appearance, I presume.

ROBERT EHRENBACH.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing I have read Mr. Gillespie's paper, and am pleased to see that my remarks very much tally with his. Although he says the 5, 10, 15, 20 are perf. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 10$, he gives them as 10 in the reference list, I presume by mistake. (R. E.)



New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

CYPRUS.—We are indebted to Mr. Pierides for a specimen of the $\frac{1}{2}$ piastre reply card on buff, issued at the beginning of the month of January. (*Monthly Journal*.)

Post Card. $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ piastre, green on buff.

INDIA.—*The P. J. of G. B.* reports the current 1 rupee label with the overprint "On H.M.S." in usual type.

Official. 1 rupee, green and carmine, black surcharge.

LABUAN.—With reference to our remarks last month the Secretary of the North Borneo Company, writing to the *Monthly Journal*, informs them that there has been no issue of the stamps referred to since August, 1893, and that the only stamps in use during 1894 were the North Borneo types with surcharge "Labuan." If this is so, how is this supposed "lithograph" issue to be accounted for?

NEW ZEALAND.—We have omitted to mention the Letter Card which came into use early in January. A curious feature is that the stamp bears the inscription "POSTAGE & REVENUE," the Queen's head occupies the centre of stamp, with name and inscription above, and value in words at base. It appears to be a very cheap card, as four excellent engravings of various native scenes are thrown in as a design for the back of the card: the usual inscriptions complete the chronicle.

Letter Card. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., mauve on green; 142×90 mm.

QUEENSLAND.—We have seen specimens of the current 1d. and 2d. labels printed on the heavy paper in use for the stamps of value from 2s. 6d. to £1, with the large Q and Crown watermark. The explanation

given is that the supply of ordinary paper was exhausted.

Adhesives.

1d., orange-red, *wmk. large Q and Crown* (fiscal paper).
2d., blue " " "

SAMOA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us two provisional, and no doubt unnecessary, stamps, issued on January 28th, the 2d., orange, with overprint "Surcharged" " $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.", and the same value overprinted "R" "3d." for registration uses only. Our correspondents inform us that they are in sheets of 120, and after careful examination *no* varieties are to be found!

Adhesives $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 2d., orange, blue surcharge.
3d. on 2d., orange, black "

SARAWAK.—We illustrate the new set lately sent out by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon, & Co.



STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Pahang.*—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. forward a new value of "tiger" type.

Adhesive. 1 c., green.

ZULULAND.—Writing on the 11th inst., Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. inform us that they have received official information (which may be relied upon as accurate) from Zululand that the values of $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 9d., and 5s., surcharged on current English, are exhausted, and consequently the only values now in stock are the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., and 1s. Of the new type only the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. have as yet been issued, but the others are expected shortly.

EUROPE.

HOLLAND.—The 15 and 25 cent unpaid labels have appeared in the new shade—bright blue.

Unpaid. 15 c., black and bright blue.
25 c. „ „

MONACO.—The current 1 franc label has the paper bright yellow.

Adhesive. 1 franc, black on yellow.

AMERICA.

BOLIVIA.—*Le Timbre Poste* reports the 50 and 100 centavos on thicker paper, perf. 13.

Adhesives. 50 centavos, brown violet.
100 „ „ flesh.

BRAZIL.—We annex illustration of the lately issued 1000 and 2000 reis values.

PARAGUAY.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write: "We enclose a specimen of the new 20 c. stamp, issued on January 16th last. This completes the set with portraits; the portrait is that of Escobar. The 10 c. stamps are only obtainable with a hole punched in them, which is done to prevent counterfeiting the Columbian issue. The 1 centavos value has been withdrawn from use."

Adhesive. 20 c., carmine.

SALVADOR.—There are two or three sets of stamps which we have seen, as the new series for 1895; they have been fully described in all other magazines, hence we do not waste valuable space, but simply say that there are the usual values of adhesives, and the full complement of rubbish in the stationery line.

UNITED STATES.—We were unable last month to give the illustrations of the new dollar series, and now annex them. The following new envelopes and wrapper are in

issue, the stamps on same remain unchanged, but the watermark consists of large letters "U. S.," with "P.O.D." in small letters sideways inside the "U," and "9" "4" inside the curves of the "S."

Envelopes.

1 c., blue on white laid; new wmk.; 160×89 mm.
2 c., green on „ „ „ „
2 c. „ „ amber „ „ „

Wrapper.

1 c., blue on buff; 140×239 mm.



ASIA.

CHINESE LOCAL POSTS.—*Chung King*.—The following and other documents, etc., we have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. in support of the Chung King Local Post. We insert the postmaster's letter to the above firm, but are of opinion that there is "more underneath than appears on the surface"!

LOCAL POST-OFFICE, CHUNGKING,
December 15th, 1894.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.,
Ipswich.

DEAR SIRS,

In reply to your favour of 29th August last, I have to observe that you are under a misapprehension in regard to this Post-office.

You are right in stating "these labels are not authorised by the Municipal Council," the simple fact being that there is no Municipal Council here any more than in any of the newer Treaty Ports (those opened since 1861), in which no Foreign "Concession" has been established; yet, all the same, the foreign residents require postal facilities, and hence have established Local Post-offices.

You go on to state "these stamps are not a *bond fide* issue." Here you are quite wrong, and I trust that, after receipt of this letter, you will retract the statement.

The Chungking Local Post is the *bond fide* Post-office of China, inasmuch as it carries its own mails and devotes the whole of its surplus revenue to improving its mail service, which no other Post-office does.

The nearest port in steam communication with Chungking is Ichang, five hundred miles distant, between which places this office employs overland couriers to carry its mails weekly, the journey

being accomplished in ten to fifteen days according to the weather.

This service we organised in 1893, and it has been working regularly since the 1st November of that year. Previous to that date, letters addressed to Chungking were sent on from Ichang by chance junk or messenger, often taking a month or six weeks on the journey.

We have now used up the whole of our original issue of 2 candarin stamps, of which 50,000 were printed by Kelly & Walsh, Limited, after which the plate was destroyed by them. We are informed that this issue is now selling in Shanghai at a premium.*

We have consequently just had a new issue of five denominations, printed in Japan by the Tokyo Tsukiji Company, who have given us a certificate that the plate is destroyed after printing the following numbers:†

24	candarin,	100,000
16	"	100,000
8	"	100,000
4	"	100,000
2	"	150,000

Our stamps serve the numerous foreign residents scattered throughout Szechuen (a province equal to France in size and population), and are acknowledged and passed by all the other local Post-offices.

Until such time as China receives a foreign administration (such as Egypt for instance), and a central universal post is established by the government, as in other civilised countries, the various foreign communities will continue to manage the Local Posts, each one of which serves a district larger than many an European kingdom. Hence their number—which is doubtless confusing to philatelists at home, who do not realise that China is a country larger than all the countries of Europe put together.‡

I am, dear Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

LUI SUI TUNG.
(Local Postmaster.)

* "Artful"! † "And bland"! ‡

‡ Mere size does not count for much in war or Philately, Mr. Lui Sui Tung!—ED.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CONGO.—The 5 and 10 centimes have changed colours.

Adhesives. 5 centimes, black and brown-red.
10 " black and blue.

COOK ISLANDS.—The *Monthly Journal* has received a 1d. post card with stamp of current type adhesives.

Post Card. 1d., dark blue on buff.

CUBA.—The 10 c. de peso is now printed in carmine.

Adhesive. 10 c. de peso, carmine.

FEZ SEFRO.—As we prophesied, these labels not only turn out to be frauds, but the service does not exist; the stamps were imported to Fez by a youth in a German house there, and were printed in Germany. We must apologise to our readers for ever having wasted our honest printers' ink in their notice.

NATIVE INDIAN STATES.—*Bhopal*.—*Le Timbre-Poste* reports that the $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, large square design (see illustration), has been redrawn in eight varieties, one of the types reading NAWB for NAWAB, a space being left for the second "A." Specimens have been seen with the "A" inserted, printed on white laid paper, perf. and imperf.

Adhesive. $\frac{1}{4}$ anna, black, varieties.



Sirmoor.—A new series of four values is current here; the design is oblong, a central oval occupied by an elephant, with an outer oval containing the inscription, "SIRMOOR POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE"; value in numerals at top, and in numerals and words at base; perf. 14.

Adhesives. 3 pies, orange.
6 " green.
1 anna, blue.
2 annas, carmine.

PERSIA.—The *Ph. Record* notes a 16 shahi of the type of the lately described 10 shahi.

Adhesive. 16 shahi, pale rose.

PORTO RICO.—In vol. iii., page 200, we chronicled an 80 c. de peso red-brown. *Le C. de T. P.* states that this value is not known in the colony.

SIAM.—There appears to be a second and new setting up of the 1 and 2 atts surcharges on 64 atts, the later one measuring 10 mm. in place of 15; the spelling of atts is also corrected to att.

Adhesives.
1 att on 64 atts, black on brown and lilac; surch. 10 mm.
2 atts on " " " " "

SOMALI COAST.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have forwarded us a complete set from 1 c. to 25 francs (!) in the same type as that of the Djiboutis lately issued. We trust no reader of this journal will waste 6d. in such trash!

TRANSVAAL.—The halfpenny label comes to hand in the new type, perf. 12½, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive. ½d., gray.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. DUKE ALFRED OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &c.

Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1894-95 :

President—THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—R. PEARCE.

Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.

Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON.

R. EHRENBACH.

D. GARTH.

A. W. CHAMBERS.

E. B. EVANS.

T. WICKHAM JONES.

THE fifteenth meeting of the season, 1894-95, was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 22nd February, 1895, at 7.30.

The members present comprised Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, G. S. Routledge, A. W. Chambers, T. Maycock, E. L. Cator, Gordon Smith, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Bacon reported that he had received from Dr. Diena, for the Society's Library, a copy of his work on *The Stamps of Modena*, which was directed to be acknowledged with thanks.

Mr. J. M. Andreini, of New York, proposed by Mr. Neave, and seconded by the Secretary, and Mr. C. F. D. Marshall, and Mr. H. C. Bunbury, both proposed by Mr. A. de Worms, and seconded by Mr. Castle, were elected members of the Society.

The Vice-President then read a paper entitled "A Philatelic Rock Ahead," dealing with the great danger to Philately caused by the increase of stamps produced for sale to collectors, and not for legitimate postal requirements. On the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by the Secretary, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Castle for his very interesting and valuable paper.

A lengthy discussion on the best mode of dealing with the mischief pointed out by Mr. Castle, followed the reading of the paper, and ultimately notice was given that at a later meeting the Vice-President would

move, and Mr. Nankivell would second, a resolution "That this Society is of opinion that the great increase in the production of speculative stamps for sale to collectors threatens to have a very serious effect on the collection of genuine postal issues throughout the world, and that a Committee be appointed to consider the best means to be adopted to put a stop to the scandal."

THE seventeenth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 8th March, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

The members in attendance were Messrs. M. P. Castle, D. Garth, E. D. Bacon, T. Wickham Jones, H. R. Oldfield, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, J. G. Tolhurst, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, T. Maycock, W. Silk, J. A. Tilleard, and John Potter.

The chair having been taken by the Vice-President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary having called attention to the loss sustained by the Society in the death of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch, it was moved by the Vice-President, seconded by Mr. Bacon, and resolved unanimously, "That the members of the Philatelic Society, London, have heard with sincere regret of the death of their illustrious colleague H.I.H. the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch, and desire to place on record their sense of the great loss sustained by this Society and Philately in the untimely death of the Grand Duke, and their respectful sympathy with the family of His Imperial Highness."

Mr. Geo. Köster sent for the inspection of the members specimens of the rare local stamps used in Chiapas, Mexico, in 1867. The stamps were all upon entire letter sheets, and included copies of the $\frac{1}{2}$ real, 1 real, 2 reales, 4 reales, and half, and also a quarter, of the 8 reales, used respectively as 4 reales and 2 reales. Mr. Köster also sent a fine block of four $\frac{1}{2}$ real, and other Guadalajara stamps on entire letter sheets, and the Cuernavaca local stamp on an original letter; also sixteen rare Mexican postcards, several of which had the stamps inverted in various positions on the cards.

Mr. Bacon, who showed the stamps on behalf of Mr. Köster, was requested to convey to that gentleman the thanks of the meeting for his kindness in submitting the interesting specimens to the Society.

Mr. T. A. Rance, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant-Secretary, was elected to the membership of the Society.

Mr. T. Wickham Jones then read a paper on "The large Rectangular Stamps of Shanghai," in which he entered into a detailed criticism of Mr. Thornhill's recently published handbook, emphasising and giving his reasons for many differences of opinion as to the various and interesting issues in question. By way of illustrating his paper Mr. Wickham Jones exhibited his own magnificent collection of the stamps under consideration.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach, a cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Wickham Jones for his able and interesting paper, which it is proposed should be published in *The London Philatelist*.

The intermediate meetings were devoted to the settlement of the Society's reference lists.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—A. DE WORMS, 27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

THE eighth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, January 28th, at 7.45 p.m. Present: Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. W. Gillespie, O. Pfenninger, E. E. Manwaring, W. T. Willett, C. R. Morse, P. de Worms, H. C. Bunbury, A. de Worms, H. Stafford-Smith, A. Upton, and one visitor—Mr. W. F. Ellerton. The President in the chair.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary reported the receipt from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., of a copy of *The Stamps of Shanghai* as a donation to the library, which he was requested to acknowledge with the best thanks of the Society.

Mr. Pfenninger read a long and very interesting paper on the "General Postal History of Switzerland," which included details of the monetary systems prior to the year 1848, extracts from reports of the Federal postal departments, accounts of the different rates

of postage in the cantons Zürich, Geneva, and Basle during the transition period, etc.

A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Pfenninger for his paper was passed.

THE ninth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, February 11th, at 7.45 p.m. Present—Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. W. Gillespie, R. J. Thrupp, E. E. Manwaring, H. Stafford-Smith, W. S. Burrows, P. de Worms, H. C. Bunbury, H. Davis, A. de Worms, W. T. Willett, R. J. Woodman, O. Pfenninger. The President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the President read a paper referring to the amounts realized by stamps at auctions. Having remarked about the very high prices brought by various lots, he quoted several instances of record figures being obtained at recent sales. Mr. Willett proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mr. J. W. Gillespie, and passed.

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—OLIVER FIRTH.

Hon. Secretary—W. H. SCOTT, 1, Piccadilly, Bradford.

THE monthly meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday evening, the 5th February, 1895, the President, Mr. Oliver Firth, being in the chair. There was a good attendance of members, and after the formal business of the Society had been transacted a paper was read by the Hon. Sec. (Mr. W. H. Scott) on "Watermarks and Perforations." The Exchange Club, of which Mr. H. W. Atkinson, of 25, Hanover Square, Bradford, is the Hon. Sec., is now in full working order. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 5th of March.

THE monthly meeting of this Society was held at 1, Cheapside, on Tuesday evening,

the 5th March. The President, Mr. Oliver Firth, occupied the chair, and there was a good muster of members present, as well as two visitors. After the election of new members and other formal business had been transacted, a display took place of the stamps of the United States, with a discussion on such stamps, which was opened by Mr. W. K. Skipwith, of Leeds, in a very able manner. Mr. Skipwith illustrated his remarks by a very good collection belonging to his father. The next meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, the 2nd of April, when the President of the Society promises to open a discussion on the stamps of Nova Scotia, which he will illustrate with his own very fine collection of these stamps.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

Hon. Secretary—W. DORNING BECKTON, Daisy Bank, Swinton Park.

THE eighth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel on Friday, January 18th, 1895, at which fourteen members were present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Grunewald took the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. G. B. Duerst read the first part of a paper on the postage stamps of Roumania.

In addition to Mr. Duerst, Messrs. Beckton and Abbott also showed interesting collections of the numerous varieties of Roumanian stamps. At the next meeting Mr. Duerst will read the second half of his paper.

THE ninth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel on Friday, February 1st, 1895, nineteen members being present, Mr. Abbott taking the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. J. C. North read an interesting communication on the Post-office and conveyance of mails at home and to foreign parts, with rates of postage chargeable, taken from "an abridgement of the statutes in force and use in the year 1687 (third year of King James the Second)."

Mr. E. Petri read a paper on the postage

stamps of Sicily; in the course of his remarks he designated these stamps interesting both on account of their exceptional beauty, as well as the historic interest attached to them. For richness of colouring, combined with simplicity and effectiveness of design, he considered these stamps fully equal, if not superior, to any that have ever been issued.

Mr. Petri exhibited his collection of Sicilian stamps, and pointed out the differences between the genuine and forged stamps.

THE tenth meeting of the session was held on Friday, February 15th, 1895, the Vice-President in the chair, supported by the Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Assistant Hon. Secretary, Messrs. Grunewald, Munn, Harrison, Ranck, Gibson, Wallace, Jones, Fildes, Pemberton, Ostara, and Grunhard.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Hon. D. W. G. Garraway was elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Duerst read the continuation of his paper on Roumania, dealing with the stamps issued from 1879 to the present day. A very large number of varieties, hitherto unchronicled, were mentioned by Mr. Duerst, who was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for what had proved a most interesting paper.

THE NEW YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ROOM—I, EVERETT BUILDING, 25, ANN STREET.

President—FREDERICK DE COPPETT.

Secretary—FREDERICK AUGUSTUS NAST.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Society was held at their rooms on Monday evening, January 21st.

The meeting was called to order by President Thorne at 8.15, and in the absence of the Secretary in Europe Mr. J. O. Hobby was requested to act.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The resignations of Messrs. T. B. De Vinne and J. W. Leslie were accepted with regret. Mr. Robert Sneider was dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues. New applications for membership were duly posted on the bulletin board. The following communication addressed to the Secretary was read :

"SIR,—I received from England last mail a letter informing me that an article had appeared in the *American Philatelic Journal* regarding the stamps issued for this office, and saying that they were merely printed as a speculation.* I have not seen the article, so I cannot say how far true this may be. But I can only say that if such a thing has appeared and been put before the public it is most unfair to this office, which is quite as legitimate as any local office in China; and it would be interesting to learn the source from which the editor derived his information.

"Wu-Hu, a port situated on the Yangtse Kiang River, half way between Shanghai and Hankow, and in the province Mgan-whei, has of late years become a great missionary centre, and it was necessary in order that these missionaries and the business people of this port might get their mails safely delivered that a local post was started. Accordingly a meeting of foreign residents was held here on June 23 last, when I was appointed as Postmaster. Enclosed I beg to hand you a true copy of a letter received from the Shanghai Municipal Council *re* the starting of this office. Also true copy of a letter I yesterday received from our Consul authorizing me to receive and open all British mails and to both of which I invite your kind attention.

"This office, in addition to receiving 'local mails,' also accepts and forwards to the respective agents in Shanghai mail matter for all parts of the world, as well as receiving and delivering foreign mails to the following missions :

"Alliance Mission, America; China Inland Mission; Catholic Mission; American Pres-

byterian Mission; H. B. M. Consul mails; Mails of local residents."

"So you can readily understand the amount of work this entails. Hence the necessity of a post office, which is certainly as much needed as any other local office in China. I make this remark without further comment.

"This office was certainly not started as a speculation, but as a public benefit, which it is day by day proving itself to be—as the mails are received and delivered promptly now, and people are feeling satisfied at having an office where they can post their letters where before they had to be sent loose by the river steamers, the consequence being that many were lost.

"The stamps for the Wu-Hu local office were printed by the Lithograph Society of Shanghai, and it is not the intention of this office to have any further issue without actually compelled so to do. The stones on which the stamps were printed have been destroyed.

"Should it be necessary to have another issue at a future time, it is possible that a *Chinese valuation* may be put on the stamps in Chinese characters for the use of the Chinese, who also use this office.

"Should you require any further information *re* the Wu-Hu local office kindly let me know, and I will do my utmost to let you have it, as there is really nothing to disguise.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"A. KNIGHT GREYSON,

"Local Postmaster.

"SECRETARY THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY,
NEW YORK."

[TRUE COPY.]

"MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

"23, KIANGSE ROAD, SHANGHAI,

"July 25, 1894.

"SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst., enclosing minutes of a meeting of the foreign residents of Wu-Hu held on June 23, at which it was decided that you should be appointed Local Postmaster there, and handing me copy of the rules which you propose should be adopted for the office.

"Your letter and the rules have been submitted to the Council, and in reply I am directed to inform you that they have decided to make the same arrangement with the Local Post Office at Wu-Hu as they have with the post offices at Hankow, etc., and the Postmaster here has been instructed that the arrangement will come into force from and after August 1.

"As requested, I now return you the rules

* We consider that these "stamps" are speculative issues, and not worthy of collection.—ED. L. P.

for the Wu-Hu Local Post enclosed in your letter under reply.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,
(Signed) "R. F. THORBURN,
"Secretary."

"A. KNIGHT GREYSON, ESQ., Wu-Hu."

[TRUE COPY.]

"H. B. M. CONSULATE,

"WU-HU, Nov. 9, 1894.

"A. KNIGHT GREYSON, ESQ.,
"Local Postmaster, Wu-Hu.

"DEAR SIR,—If agreeable to you I shall be glad if you would open and distribute the contents of mail bag and mail packets that come from the British Post Office at Shanghai addressed to H. B. M. Consul, Wu-Hu, and you are hereby authorized to do so as long as I remain in charge of the Consulate.

"I am, dear sir, yours faithfully,
(Signed) "COLLIN F. FORD."

Mr. J. B. Kerfoot read an interesting paper on the varieties of United States stamps, and on the motion of Mr. Scott was warmly thanked by the Society. He was followed by Mr. William Herrick in an able defence of Russian locals, which was well received by members present. On the conclusion of the papers the various new issues of the month were exhibited by Mr. Scott, and the errors in the late surcharges of Panama and Guatemala pointed out.

J. O. HOBBY,
Secretary *pro tem*.

THE regular meeting was held on Monday evening, February 18th, with the following members present:—Messrs. Thorne, Deats, Herrick, Perozo, Scott, Davison, Brevoort, Clotz, Jones, and Duveen.

Meeting opened at 8.15 by President Thorne.

In the balloting for new members Mr. Wm. Herrick was appointed teller, and declared the following unanimously elected: Geo. Eberhardt, J. M. Andreini, and R. W. Quigley.

The resignation of Mr. Geo. H. Watson was received and accepted, after which, on motion of Mr. Clotz, Mr. Watson was elected to honorary membership in the Society.

The resignation of Mr. F. C. Foster was read and accepted at the end of the year, as requested. The resignation of Mr. E. J. Rall was also read and accepted.

Mr. J. W. Scott made a speech highly eulogistic of the Society's Secretary, in support of a motion to tender him a complimentary dinner at Delmonico's on his return from Italy, the participants to contribute \$5.00 each, the deficiency to be made up from the treasury. Among other things Mr. Scott stated that the success of any society mainly depended on securing an efficient secretary, and while all appreciated the honour of an election to the Presidency, and few object to taking hold of the cash, all fight shy of the Secretaryship, a position involving much work and little thanks. This Society had been particularly fortunate in its Secretary, and he thought that it would be a graceful thing to welcome the Secretary on his return by an elegant banquet at one of the leading hotels. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clotz, and after some remarks by members was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The President appointed Messrs. Scott and Clotz as Committee to carry out the wishes of the Society, and make all arrangements. Members can obtain tickets on application to either of the above-named gentlemen.

Mr. Herrick gave notice of a paper for the April meeting, and Mr. Deats one for the meeting in May.

There being no paper read at this meeting, the time was spent in examining the stamps exhibited, Mr. Thorne having his United States, Great Britain, and Colonies, with Confederate locals and U.S. Postage. The magnificent display of rare things was thoroughly enjoyed by the members.

Mr. Herrick exhibited an unsevered pair of 2k. current issue of Russia, with thunderbolts, unperforated. Mr. Thorne, a block of nine Martinique, 1892, 5c. on 25c. black on pink, there being an error in the centre stamp, it being printed 95c. instead of 05c.

Mr. Brevoort had his collection of United States general issues on exhibit, while Mr. Deats brought a book of rare British Colonials.

Owing to the fine display of stamps, the meeting adjourned at a late hour.

ALVAH DAVISON,
Secretary *pro tem*.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT.

Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—A. LEVY.

THE sixth ordinary meeting was held at 9a, Princess Square, on December 20th, 1894. Messrs. E. Honeysett and J. Griffin were elected members.

The Vice-President concluded his remarks on the "Formation of a Collection."

THE seventh ordinary meeting was held on January 3rd, 1895.

Mrs. D. A. Livingstone was elected corresponding member.

The Hon. Sec. read a paper on the stamps of Greece, illustrating same by his collection, which he had recently remounted in accordance with the list of Lieut. Napier, R.N.

THE eighth ordinary meeting was held on January 17th, 1895.

It was resolved that the meetings be held on Wednesday evenings instead of Thursday. The meeting was devoted to general business of the Society and exchange of stamps.

THE ninth ordinary meeting was held on February 6th, 1895, and was devoted to the display of the stamps of Western Australia and Tasmania.

A large number of members and visitors attended.

The following is a brief account of the chief exhibits:

The President (A. R. Barrett).—The imperforate issues of Western Australia, including a specially fine copy of the first twopence, several unused; also two good copies of the one shilling, rouletted.

The Vice-President (R. T. Stevens).—This exhibit, consisting of twelve sheets, shewed to great advantage from the careful manner in which it had been mounted. Among the Western Australians the swan watermarked stamps had been arranged in accordance with their perforations. The Tasmanians included an unused imperf. twopence, yellow-green; a pair of fourpence, rouletted, on original, and some scarce compound perfs. of the series watermarked with numerals.

Mr. Kuttner (London) sent seven sheets for exhibit, which contained a quantity of interesting matter. In Western Australia, besides a large number of unused specimens, the first issue was strongly represented as follows: Twopence, four (one unused), fourpence, six (two unused), including one on original envelope, postmarked "Perth, August 20th, 1855," whereas the date of issue of this stamp is given in *Oceania* as 1858; sixpence, six (one rouletted), one shilling, six (one rouletted). His Tasmanians included a made-up plate of the first fourpence, the Government set of reprints on original sheet, as well as the reprints on card, an entire sheet of the halfpenny surcharged, and a pane of the native printed vermilion penny (close TAS).

Messrs. Coppin, Milton, Levy, and Capt. Stockdale exhibited good general collections of both colonies, including several rarities and fine specimens, &c. Mr. Coppin was the only exhibitor who possessed a copy of the Western Australia fourpence, CC, perf. 14, which is evidently a much underrated stamp.

ASHER LEVY, *Hon. Sec.*

190, UNION STREET, PLYMOUTH.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT.

THE following is the annual report of the committee of the Philatelic Society of South Australia for 1893-4:

In submitting to you the sixth annual report, your committee has good cause to be satisfied with the progress made during the past twelve months, and members are to be congratulated on the present prosperous condition of the Society. Twelve meetings have been held during the year, and a marked improvement in the attendance of members has been noticed, the average being 13 per meeting. Since the last annual meeting 13 new members have been elected and one has resigned, leaving 33 on the roll at present.

During the past year we have lost the

valuable services of your worthy President, the Rev. P. E. Raynor, and the office of President held by that gentleman so long becomes vacant to-night. On his departure for England the members presented him with an illuminated address expressive of the esteem in which he was held.

The lease of the rooms in Hassell Chambers having expired in March of the present year, it became necessary for the Society to look elsewhere for a room, and arrangements were subsequently made with the Railway Association to rent the present room on satisfactory terms.

At the inauguration of the Society, in October, 1888, it was unanimously agreed that no standing rules be framed, but that by-laws be made as required. At the last

March meeting, however, it was felt on account of the increasing membership that the time had arrived for the Society to frame rules. A committee was appointed for that purpose, and a set of rules were submitted, passed, and duly confirmed at subsequent meetings, and printed books of same distributed to all the members.

A new feature of the year has been the extension of the exchange system beyond the colony, the Society having entered into exchange with the Netherlands, New South Wales, and West Australian Philatelic Societies, and good business has resulted. It is hoped that during the coming year the system will be extended to the other societies of Australasia.

Your committee would urge upon members the desirability of more papers being read at the meetings, and trust that members will endeavour to make this subject an essential

feature of the business of the Society during the ensuing year, as it is only in this way that a knowledge of Philately can be acquired. Reports of the general monthly meetings are published in the *Stamp News*, and our thanks are due to the courtesy of Messrs. Theo. Buhl and Co. for sending us their publications free of cost. We have also to thank Messrs. P. E. Raynor, O. W. Rosenhaim, P. W. Berry, and others, for donations of books to the library. It is hoped members will avail themselves of the facilities offered by the library, as it now contains many valuable works of reference.

In conclusion, your committee trusts that the progress of the society—the oldest Philatelic Society in Australia—will be even greater during the ensuing twelve months than last year, and that each and every member will use his best endeavours to inspire in others a desire to study Philately and become members of our Society.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.*

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.*

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WORTHLESS NEW ISSUES.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I received yesterday the February number of *The London Philatelist*, and in the first place congratulate you upon its being one of the best yet issued. I think so on account of the general articles, but more especially so on account of the article entitled "High Watermark," together with the two sheets of illustrations of the leading rarities reviewed in it. One rarely here has the opportunity of seeing so many rarities brought together, and still less of knowing something of their value, that it is a treat to me—as I am sure it must be for others—to see this list and your article.

No one will complain, I am sure, if you repeat the experiment in future numbers.

Whilst I am all praise for the above, I cannot let pass a matter in the *Journal* to which I think your attention should be brought.

At the Annual Dinner of the Philatelic Society you occupied the chair, and in referring to our hobby "laid great stress, as did others, on the excessive . . . new issues . . . brought out not so much for real postal, &c. . . suggested that one and all should do all they possibly could to counteract it."

I think it is admitted that these wretched Central American States are the worse offenders in this respect, and yet forsooth,

although "you do not profess to chronicle everything—speculative stamps will be considered on their merits, &c., &c."—you devote one and a quarter columns to "New Series of Adhesives and STATIONERY" for Honduras and Nicaragua!

In view of your speech and advice to Philatelists at the dinner before referred to, could anything be more inconsistent than this?

I have long ceased to regard the rubbish emanating from these states as worthy of notice, and should certainly like to see it excluded from our magazine—that is if you are sincere in what you said about "doing all we possibly can to counteract it."

I am not a prophet, but I think the time is not far distant when Stanley Gibbons and other leading firms will boldly announce in their catalogues and other publications—as they did in the case of reprints—that they have ceased to sell or deal in speculative labels or remainders.

I am, yours faithfully,
A MEMBER OF THE MANCHESTER
PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

March 9th, 1895.

[Our sympathies are quite with our correspondent. If our readers approve we are quite willing to publish a black list; *i.e.* the names of countries whose issues we decline to chronicle—the saving merits of the South American issues are that they are cheap and practically void of surcharges.—ED.]

The Market.

A BELGIAN GOVERNMENTAL AUCTION.

The "find" of the five franc stamps recently alluded to in the *London Philatelist*, amounting to no less than 2,400 copies, is to be disposed of by the Belgian Postal Authorities by public tender for the whole or any part, being not less than 50 specimens, on the 25th June next. The offers are to be made to the Receveur des Domaines, Boulevard Barthélemy, 11 B., Brussels. Full instructions as to the mode of tendering are published, and it may be safely assumed that the stamps will realise at least full face-value.

AUCTIONS.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER.

Perhaps the most interesting lots sold at the three days' sale, held on February 20th to 22nd ult., were Montserrat, 4d. blue CA, a fine copy of which fetched £5, a steadily rising stamp; India, 4 as., red and blue, left half of sheet with full margins, £23; and New Zealand, 1d., blue paper, unique strip of 8 unused with gum, £40. The following also obtained interesting and good prices:

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, V.R., unused . . .	11	0	0
Ditto, 2½d., pl. 2, error of lettering . . .	6	6	0
Ditto, Mulready, entire sheet of 2d. blue envelopes, framed . . .	14	10	0
Ditto, ditto, covers . . .	14	0	0
Ditto, ditto, proof on India paper . . .	4	0	0
Bremen, 7 grote, black on yellow, perf., used, on original . . .	8	15	0
Brunswick, p. en scie, 1 s. grote, black on yellow . . .	3	7	6
Hanover, 10 gros., green, unused . . .	2	17	6
Naples, 50 grana, lake . . .	2	16	0
Zurich, 4 rappen, black, horizontal lines, type IV., unused . . .	23	0	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown, wmk. star, perf. . .	5	5	0
India, <i>Service</i> , 8 as., green and lilac . . .	10	0	0
Cape, wood block, 1d., red . . .	5	5	0
Ditto, ditto, error, 4d., red, small margin . . .	32	0	0
Gold Coast, £1, green and carmine, unused . . .	4	10	0
Lagos, 2s. 6d., olive brown, unused . . .	3	0	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d., vermilion, shewing vertical lines . . .	4	0	0
Natal, 1st issue, 1d., blue, strip of 3, penstroked . . .	5	5	0
Ditto, 1s., green, surcharged, postage, 12 mm. . .	3	10	0
Canada, 6d., green, penstroked . . .	3	3	0
Ditto, 10d., blue, unused . . .	3	10	0

	£	s.	d.
New Brunswick, 1s., mauve . . .	13	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., dark violet, used, with 1d. red-brown . . .	23	0	0
United States, 1869, 15 c., 30 c., and 90 c., without grill, unused . . .	6	12	6
Antigua, 6d., green, imperf., unused . . .	5	0	0
Barbados, 5s., pink, unused . . .	4	8	0
Ditto, provisional, 1d. on half of 5s., used, on piece of original newspaper . . .	4	10	0
Nevis, 4d., rose . . .	2	17	6
Ditto, 6d., gray, unused . . .	2	4	0
Ditto, 1s; green on bluish . . .	5	0	0
Ditto, 1s., yellow-green . . .	3	0	0
Ditto, 1883, 6d., green . . .	6	10	0
St. Kitts, 6d., olive-brown . . .	3	7	6
St. Vincent, 4d., orange . . .	2	7	6
Pacific Steam Nav. Co., 1 real, blue . . .	5	10	0
New South Wales, Sydneys, 1d., red, pl. 1, two unused specimens . . .	20	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d., blue, plate II. . .	3	12	6
South Australia, 1d., green, imperf. . .	3	3	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

Sale of January 23rd and 24th:

Tuscany, 60 crazie (fair) . . .	7	5	0
Oldenburg, ½ gros., black on green unused (not fine) . . .	3	10	0
Shanghai, 3 cands. on 16 c., blue on green . . .	2	14	0
United States, 1869, set complete . . .	4	12	6
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow . . .	2	12	0
St. Vincent, 5s., lake, wmk., star . . .	5	15	0
Peru, "medio peso," rose (fair) . . .	8	0	0

At the 65th sale, on February 18th:

Oldenburg, ½ black on green, unused, cut close . . .	4	0	0
Great Britain, 8d., brown, unused, pair . . .	9	10	0
Great Britain, 8d., brown, unused, single copy . . .	4	15	0
Tasmania, first issue, 1d., blue, strip of 3, nos. 15, 16, and 17 on plate . . .	6	10	0
Tasmania, 1863, error, 1d., wmk. "2," pen cancelled . . .	2	10	0
New Zealand, Fiscal, £50, postally used . . .	2	2	0
British Guiana, 1862, provisional, 1 c., rose, border of pearls, No. 17 on plate, unused . . .	16	0	0
British Guiana, 1862, provisional 2 c., yellow, border of crossed hearts, No. 7 on plate, unused . . .	9	10	0
British Guiana, 1862, provisional, 4 c., blue, border of rosaces, without interior lines, No. 23 on plate, unused . . .	18	10	0

THE
London Philatelist:

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VOL. IV.

APRIL, 1895.

No. 40.

The New Crusade.



CENTURIES since, our ancestors maintained during long years, a ceaseless war against the Oriental hordes of infidels, in which the chivalry of Europe, after a desperate struggle, stemmed the invasion of the unbelievers, and extended the influence of the holy cross until the safety of the Christian race was absolutely safeguarded. The example of these crusaders is one that calls, *longo intervallo*, for the like action on the part of the Philatelic civilised world, and we can conceive of no fitter appellation for the strife now commencing than that we have adopted above, as a general term for the new departure.

The force of the *simile* will be readily seen. The Philatelic Crusaders are the great body of educated and consistent collectors and dealers who desire to see the future of Philately assured. The one section has laboured honestly to sell, and the other to legitimately acquire, objects that are of great interest, and have moreover grown to be regarded as tokens synonymous with or convertible into large sums of money. This evolution of Philately, leaving on one side for the moment all its known charms and advantages, by which it has passed from being the fancy of a schoolboy to the means of livelihood to thousands, and the opportunity for investment to scores of thousands, has been a position slowly won by arduous work, and by honest demand and supply. The men who have done and are doing this work are the Philatelic Crusaders.

The "Saracenic hordes" and "infidel barbarians" are the venal governments and post-office authorities, who degrade and abuse their position by

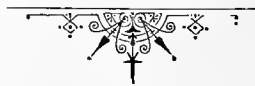
providing needless and speculative issues of stamps, who add to illgotten gains by perpetrating gratuitous and intentional varieties of surcharge, who in fact make spurious and illegitimate issues that are unholy in the sight of the Knights of the true Philatelic Cross, and reek of Oriental extortion, bribery, and corruption. Like their ancient prototypes these hordes, *unchecked*, become a danger, and gather strength as the invading tide rolls in.

The hour has come when this scandal must be checked; if not, some day Philately will emulate Humpty-Dunty, and the stamp-collecting egg will be irretrievably broken.

The Philatelic Society of London, as announced elsewhere, has convened a general meeting on the 6th of May next, and we trust that the attendance will not only be abnormal, but that some general ground of agreement as to future action will be arrived at.

One thing can certainly at once be done by all hands; that is, the dubbing a spade—a spade. A black list can be forthwith commenced of countries whose productions are of the bastard order, and a second list can also be instituted of countries whose proceedings are dubious, and into which inquiry should be made before they are relegated to join either sheep or goats. The compilers of catalogues, even if they insert any speculative issues, can plainly indicate their real Philatelic value by the aid of footnotes, and the chronicler of new issues can taboo them entirely. A determined and general resolve all along the line of collectors in Europe would break the backs of any speculative issue in three months. An appeal to the governments or authorities issuing needless stamps by a powerful committee, would be materially strengthened by an experience such as that last mentioned.

A glaring instance of Philatelic pandering to speculation is that of Portugal—in the proposed re-infliction of further jubilee and semi-saintlike gummed paper labels. The last issue of Dom Henry trash was practically a failure! The time is therefore fitting for a united demonstration by the trade and their clients declining to buy, sell, or hold, these postal abortions. It would be a good example and a warning to countries like Liberia and Belgian Congo, whose beauty is far in advance of their morals. The fashion in stamps is soon set—and, as in other instances, by the few! Excise worthless issues by common agreement from catalogue, album, and journal, and their production will practically cease; hence united action is the only knife that will cut out this canker of Philately.



Stray Notes on Indian Post Office Service Post Cards.

BY MAJOR ADAM SMITH.



LOOKING over my service cards a few days ago it struck me that the information given in the Philatelic Society's work, *The Postage Stamps of British India and Ceylon*, as regards the service post cards used on postal service only in India, might be amplified and made more useful to members. I have therefore measured the varieties in my possession, and desire to place my notes at the service of my brethren, with a hope that they may prove useful; more especially as modern works on Philately omit mention of them, or if they are named the notice is usually of so brief a nature as almost to be worthless. In the following notes I have confined myself to the varieties in my own possession, and have endeavoured to give as correct details as my knowledge of the subject will allow. As I do not know the actual date of issue of any of the cards I am commenting upon, I am inserting the date on which those sent through the post were written. The post cards are used by Post-office Officials in acknowledging complaints from the outside public, or other communications when reference has to be made elsewhere before a reply can be given. The value is not shown on any of the postal cards for official post-office use.

No. 1.

Date of postmark on card, 12th May, 1881.

Size of Card.—Length, 118½ mm.; width, 73½ mm.

Inscriptions.—1. On postal service, 33 mm.

2. East India post card, 91½ mm.

3. The address only to be written on this side, 72 mm.

Type.—1. Pica; 2. Pica, Old Style Antique; 3. Long Primer.

Royal Arms.—Height, 8 mm.; length, 16¾ mm.

The Lion and Unicorn are facing one another. The height of inscription, No. 2, is 3 mm.; and the height from the bottom of the third inscription to the top of the first is 17½ mm. The paper is a stout yellowish-white wove, and the colour of the inscription is green, of a somewhat dark shade. This card is franked on the left bottom face by the Postmaster-General, Bengal.

No. 2.

Date of postmark on card, 23rd June, 1887.

Size of Card.—Length, 120 mm. ; width, 73 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. $32\frac{1}{2}$ mm. ; 2. 92 mm. ; 3. $71\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Type.—Same as No. 1.

Royal Arms.—Height, 8 mm. ; length, $15\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

The Lion and Unicorn face one another, and the height of inscription, No. 2, is the same as in No. 1 ; but the height from the bottom of the third inscription to the top of the first is 21 mm. The paper is a stout buff wove, the inscription being a dull green.

No. 3.

Dated 23rd June, 1887.

Size of Card.—Length, 121 mm. ; width, 75 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. 30 mm. ; 2. 92 mm. ; 3. 52 mm.

Type.—1 and 2 same as No. 1 ; 3. Brevier.

Royal Arms.—Height, 6 mm. ; length, $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The Lion is showing a three-quarter face to the right, while the Unicorn is looking round at its tail. The post card has the word "To" on the left, almost immediately under the letter E of the word "East." Then follows "The Postmaster," and below that another line with the word "of" and 73 dots. The length of the line formed by the dots is 53 mm., while the space between this line and the top of the "1" in "Postal Service" is 57 mm. The "A" in "Postmaster" is smaller than the rest of the letters forming that word. The height from the bottom of the third inscription to the top of the "1" in the first inscription is 18 mm. The paper is an extremely thin yellowish-white wove, and the colour of the inscription is a pale green.

No. 4.

Dated 21st May, 1888.

Size of Card.—Length, 120 mm. ; width, 74 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. 33 mm. ; 2. 92 mm. ; 3. $72\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Type.—Same as No. 1.

Royal Arms.—Height and length, same as No. 2.

The Lion and Unicorn face one another, as in No. 2. The height of inscription No. 2 is 3 mm., whilst the height from the bottom of the third inscription to the top of the "1" in the first is the same as in Card No. 2 ; the paper and colour of inscription are also the same.

No. 5.

Dated July 20th, 1888.

Size of Card.—Length, 117 mm. ; width, 75 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. $32\frac{1}{2}$ mm. ; 2. 90 mm. ; 3. 71 mm.

Type.—Same as No. 1.

Royal Arms.—Height, $10\frac{1}{4}$ mm. ; length, from tail to tail, $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The Lion is showing full face, while the Unicorn is looking to the left. The height of inscription No. 2 is 3 mm., and the height from the bottom

of the third line to the top of the first is 20 mm. The paper and colour of inscription are the same as Card No. 2.

No. 6.

Dated August 27th, 1888.

Size of Card.—Length, 120 mm.; width, 75 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. 31 mm.; 2. 100 mm.; 3. 54 mm.

Type.—Same as No. 3.

Royal Arms.—Height, $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; length, 18 mm.

The tails of both animals are nearer the Crown than the heads. The Lion is looking back to left at the Unicorn, but the Unicorn is looking back to right, apparently at the Lion. The height of inscription No. 2 is 3 mm., whilst the distance between the bottom of the third inscription and the top of the first is 19 mm. The card has the word "To" to the left under the "E" of "East," and two dotted lines below, each 67 mm. long and $16\frac{1}{4}$ mm. apart. The distance between the bottom dotted line and the top of the "1" in the word "Postal" is $59\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The card is formed of two layers of very thin white wove paper gummed together. The inscription is of a dull yellow-green colour.

No. 7.

Dated 8th October, 1888.

Size of Card.—Length, 116 mm.; width, 74 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. $32\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; 2. $91\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; 3. $69\frac{3}{4}$ mm.

Type.—Same as No. 1.

Royal Arms.—Length, 16 mm.; height, $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The Arms are the same as in No. 5, and the height of the second inscription is 3 mm. The distance from the bottom of inscription No. 3 to the top of No. 1 is $20\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The paper and colour of inscription are the same as in No. 2.

No. 8.

Dated 8th March, 1889.

Size of Card.—Length, 116 mm.; breadth, 74 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. $32\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; 2. 89 mm.; 3. $70\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Type.—Same as No. 1.

The length and height of the Royal Arms, the height of inscription No. 2, and the distance between the bottom of inscription No. 3 and the top of No. 1, are the same as No. 7. The paper and colour of inscription also tally with those of No. 7; in fact, there is very little difference between the two, and unless the inscriptions were measured they might very easily be passed by as identical.

No. 9.

Dated August 1st, 1892.

Size of Card.—Length, 115 mm.; breadth, 74 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. $32\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; 2. 90 mm.; 3. 70 mm.

Type.—Same as No. 1.

Royal Arms.—Height, $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; length, 15 mm.

The Coat of Arms is the same as in card No. 5, the height of the

letters in inscription No. 2 being 3 mm., whilst the distance from the bottom of inscription No. 3 to top of No. 1 is 20 mm. The paper is a rather thick yellowish wove, the inscription being of a somewhat light green colour, with a faint tinge of yellow.

No. 10.

Dated November 23rd, 1892.

Size of Card.—Length, 123 mm.; breadth, $75\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Inscriptions.—1. 31 mm.; 2. 93 mm.; 3. 52 mm.

Type.—Same as No. 3.

Royal Arms.—Height, $5\frac{3}{4}$ mm.; length, $22\frac{1}{4}$ mm.

The Lion and Unicorn are looking in the same direction as in No. 3. The height from the bottom of the third inscription to the top of the first is 17 mm. This card bears the words "To the Postmaster of," the same as No. 3, but the "To" is immediately under the "E" of "East." The "A" of "Postmaster" is also short, but the dotted line at bottom is 54 mm.; and there are 75 dots, the 18th from the left being missing. The distance between this line and the top inscription is 56 mm. The paper is of medium white wove. Inscription same colour as No. 1.

No. 11.

Dated 8th January, 1893.

Size of Card.—Length, 120 mm.; breadth, $72\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Inscriptions.—1. 30 mm.; 2. 92 mm.; 3. 52 mm.

Type.—Same as No. 3.

Royal Arms.—Height, 6 mm.; length, 22 mm.

This card is similar to No. 10, but the "A" in "Postmaster" is of the same size as the other letters. The height from the bottom of the third inscription to the top of the first is the same as in No. 10. The length of the dotted line is the same; but the dot is not missing, thus making 76 dots. The distance, however, from this line to the top inscription is 60 mm. The paper is a yellowish-white wove, and rather thinner than in the preceding card, while the inscription is of the same colour as No. 3.

No. 12.

Dated 29th March, 1894.

Size of Card.—Length, 128 mm.; width, 79 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. $26\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; 2. 86 mm.; 3. 64 mm.

Type.—Same as No. 1.

Royal Arms.—Height, 9 mm.; length, $25\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The Lion and Unicorn have their tails nearer the crown than their heads. The coat of arms is somewhat like that on card No. 6. There is simply the word "To" almost immediately under the "E" in "East," but no dotted lines. The distance between the bottom of the third inscription and the top of the first is 20 mm. The paper is a thin dirty white wove; the inscription, which is very blurred, is a pale yellow-green.

No. 13.

This is an unused specimen.

Size of Card.—Length, 125 mm.; breadth, 75 mm.

Inscriptions.—1. 27 mm.; 2. 91½ mm.; 3. 53 mm.

Type.—Same as No. 3.

Royal Arms.—Length, 22 mm.; height, 5½ mm.

The card has the words "To the Postmaster of" in three lines. The "To" is directly beneath the "E" of "East," the "A" in Postmaster is of the same size as the other letters, and the "of" is situated under the "A." There are 47 dots in the third line, the length of the line being 38 mm., whilst from this line to the top inscription the distance is 52 mm. The paper is an extremely thin white wove, and the inscription is a yellow-green. The height from the third inscription to the top of the first is 18 mm.

No. 14.

Unused.

Size of Card.—Length, 118 mm.; breadth, 72½ mm.

Inscriptions.—1. 29 mm.; 2. 92 mm.; 3. 51 mm.

Type.—Same as No. 3.

Royal Arms.—Height, 5¾ mm.; length, 22 mm.

This card also bears the words "To the Postmaster of" in three lines, but the "of" comes under the "TM." The distance from the third inscription to the top inscription is 16½, whilst from the dotted line to the top of "1" in postal it is 54 mm. There are 53 dots in the line, and they occupy 38 mm. The paper is a very thin yellowish-white wove, while the inscription is of a trifle darker shade than No. 13.

POONA, INDIA, 7th December, 1894.

Fashionable and Unfashionable Stamps.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, ON JANUARY 26TH, 1895.

BY ROBERT EHRENBACH.



ALL we do nowadays is subject to fashion. Hence we have fashionable restaurants, theatres, health resorts, and so on, where certain classes of people resort, because it is believed to be the correct thing to do.

We have a fashion according to which we dress, and against which we cannot battle, and so we have a fashion in nearly everything.

Practically fashion means imitating each other and following the crowd.

And as it is with everything it is also with our hobby with stamps, and about the fashion in these I am going to say a few words, especially about specializing countries and groups.

Specialism has been taken up by a large number, and to a great extent, partly because it affords the best means of closely studying stamps of a certain limited range; partly because no purse, with one or two exceptions, was or is large enough to cope in a scientific way with the whole world; and lastly, because it is the fashion nowadays to be a specialist, whether it be a stamp collector or a medical doctor. But what countries and which groups are being specialized? And here it is again, where the fashion comes in in a very marked degree.

Speaking of collectors in this country, a start was made with the stamps of Great Britain, and rightly so, for there can be no doubt that the stamps of one's own country should be studied first. The outcome of this studying of these stamps, I presume, was the splendid book by Messrs. Philbrick and Westoby, later on followed by other good papers and books on the stamps of Great Britain. Recent publications have brought these stamps into a greater demand than ever. Just now it is a perfect craze. On the basis of one or two very good special collections or more, the London Philatelic Society and its working members brought out a series of reference lists; viz., Oceania, British North America, British West Indies, and India and Ceylon; and while these books were being published, and after their publication, it became the only proper thing to do to specialize these sections; in fact, it was only for stamps of these countries that high prices were realized, the demand always exceeding the supply. And all these countries, with the exception of British India, are still the rage.

To the above lot I may add some British Colonies in Africa and Asia (the reference book by the Society being now completed), Gibraltar, Old Swiss, and the German States, and in the United States their own stamps. Why, however, it is that only these groups and countries are so sought after, and why it is that a great number of other highly-interesting stamps are so neglected and unfashionable, I cannot say. Naturally I am only speaking of English collectors, and of collectors in such parts of the world where the majority only take stamps of their own respective country; viz., the United States of America and Germany.

I believe I may safely give a reason for this by saying it is certainly much easier to specialize and try and get all the varieties of those countries about which books have been published, and which have been studied up by other people, than to study anything by one's self. Many very able collectors simply lack the energy to tackle anything new, and, according to my idea, this should not be encouraged, but a stand made against it.

I myself have been just as bad as all the others. Up to quite a recent date I preferred to follow the crowd. I started by specialising the very interesting Australians, caused more or less by a stay in the Colonies, where I had good opportunities of acquiring these stamps. Then I took the German States on, following the crowd of the country I lived in at the time. Happily I always had a distinct preference for unused specimens, which were more or less despised articles on the Continent at that period.

And it is now only about two years since I made a start in taking up countries which no one else cared for—anyhow here in this country. And I can honestly say, that the closer study of these cheap and uninteresting countries has afforded and is still affording me a vast amount of pleasure. I even am tempted to say—leaving the respective value of the collections out of the question—that I like my Belgians and Russians just as much as my Oldenburgs and Wurtembergs.

Of the above countries and the Northern States of Europe, which I also take, not much exists yet in the way of literature, and the knowledge to be gained by their study is by no means little.

Probably I may be able one of these days to put one or two reference lists before you, which perhaps will justify the above remarks.

Now are there not besides the above a large number of countries just as little known, and yet fully as interesting? Why not tackle them!

I will in the following lines just mention a few which might repay anybody largely the trouble of working them up—countries to suit every purse, and may it be hoped also everybody's taste. Of the cheaper countries I should name Chili, Greece, Dutch Colonies, Egypt, Spanish, and Danish West Indies. These are all very straightforward, and there is no humbug with surcharges or collectors' issues about them. The Perkins-Bacon issues of Chili are as pretty stamps as any I could name, and their shades, paper, and watermarks afford enough material for quite an elaborate study, considering how little is still known about them.

A more varied lot of shades than is to be found among Grecian stamps—a country which, however, has lately been taken up by a few collectors—could not be named, and to study the different printings of that country is distinctly worthy of any Philatelist. The perforations of the unpaid letter stamps, and of the small-head issues, could keep a man going on measuring for some time. The other countries just named are of course much easier to do, but Egypt is not at all to be despised, and will be sought for as soon as it becomes a British Colony. Anyone who is on the look-out for a difficult and long job might with advantage start a special collection of Turkish stamps—of course leaving out all the bogie stamps and surcharges of this country. This study might turn out much more interesting than it appears to be! Countries which would require rather more in the way of funds, and which are much more difficult to collect and study, are Portugal and Austria, with its dependant States, Lombardy, and Hungary. To get Portugal complete, both used and unused would take some time, especially the finding of that *rara avis*, the 100 Doña Maria, and one or two other varieties; but certainly a handsomer lot than the embossed heads can hardly be imagined.

With Austria, etc., of course the rose and red Mercuries on ribbed and plain paper bar the way to completion, and even several of the other early issues are extreme rarities—unused. But what an abundance of paper, varieties, shades, and perforations is there not in these stamps?

Besides these advantages a close study of the reprints of these two countries would be of immense use to all Philatelists, and surely a complete paper on either Portugal or Austria would be received with great thanks

all over. Anyone who has seen any of the great Viennese collections would endorse the above remarks.

Another group which, however, is still more difficult to get together, and which likewise affords a big field, is that of the Italian States, and also here the knowledge of the reprints, etc., has to be acquired. The stamps of Tuscany and Parma have, for instance, never been properly studied, and they are without doubt amongst the most worthy to be studied.

Spain is an easy country to get together, relatively at least, because, with the exception of one or two unused things everything is to be had, for people who take the trouble to write letters and know whom to ask. The same holds good with Roumania, which, with the exception of the first issue, affords comparatively no difficulty whatever, and contains as many pretty shades as any other country I could name.

Last, not least, I should like to mention the United States of Colombia, together with Antioquia, Tolima, etc. This is a big order for even an enterprising specialist; but it is one of the finest countries of the world, in fact, perhaps, as to number of varieties, shades, and as to the difficulties of getting together, most likely second to none. Strange to say, this now so much neglected group used to be the pet country of most collectors, and if I am not mistaken our Vice-President had a very fine lot of them.

I have in the above remarks only tried to shew that other stamps, not belonging to the so-called fashionable groups, are by no means to be despised, or devoid of interest, and well worth the trouble of studying.

If it were only possible that each or several of the countries mentioned, or others not mentioned—and I could name another dozen or so, quite nice ones, as France, Portuguese Indies, Buenos Ayres, or the old issues of Uruguay, Brazil, and St. Domingo, and even the old issues of the Lubeck group, which contain handsome and interesting stamps—could be taken up by members of this Society, and worked by them into papers and read here before the meetings, it would be greatly beneficial for the Society, and Philately in general! In fact, it would tend to keep up the prestige of the London Philatelic Society as the premier and leading club, especially if at a future Exhibition its members could shew the best special collections of not only fashionable but also of unfashionable stamps.

[Mr. Ehrenbach's article is eminently practical, and should create numerous disciples of his creed. It is well known that his sound advice has already been followed, and that several well-known collectors have commenced specialised collections of Greece and Chili, finding therein the greatest philatelic interest. We can cordially endorse Mr. Ehrenbach's views from personal experience, as to the great field for study involved in the collection of United States of Columbia, Portugal, and Austria. The latter is practically a *terra incognita* in England, and will be found to be replete with the small and interesting varieties that constitute a true philatelist's delight.—ED.]



Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

THE STAMPS OF THE TWO SICILIES.

WE are further indebted to Dr. Emil Diena for the following remarks anent these very interesting stamps, supplementing the valuable information that he supplied on the appearance of our notes on the late King Bomba in the January number of this journal:

"I take the liberty of making two slight corrections to the article entitled 'The late Ex-King of Naples,' published in the January number of the *London Philatelist*. The first concerns the date of issue of the stamps bearing the effigy of Victor Emanuel. In the *Tymbre Poste* (No. 369) I have previously published a decree, dated 6th January, 1861, announcing that these stamps were to be put into circulation on and from the 1st of March of that year. Notwithstanding this announcement I have been enabled to shew that this presumed date of issue was anticipated by a few days, having seen specimens dated so far back as the 16th February.

"The second remark that I have to offer concerns the area of employment for the series that I have just alluded to. The use of these stamps was limited exclusively to the *continental* part of the ex-kingdom of the two Sicilies, hence the designation on the stamps, 'of Naples and of Sicily,' is incorrect. They are really Italian stamps specially appropriated to the Neapolitan Provinces, provisionally in circulation, pending the introduction of the decimal Italian monetary system. It was not until the 1st October, 1862, that the stamps in this currency—centesimo and lire—were adopted.

"After the fall of the Bourbon Government in Sicily, the use of the stamps bearing the effigy of Ferdinand II. was further continued until the month of May, 1860, while in the case of the Province of Messina alone this usage continued until the early days of July of the same year. After a period of about a year, during which time the correspondence was *franked* by numerals, the Italian-Sardinian series were introduced into the Island on and from the 1st May, 1861."

DISCOVERIES.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Mr. C. F. Dendy Marshall has submitted to us a specimen of the 2d. of 1841, with white lines, in which there are no letters in the lower angles. The stamp has duly passed the post, and was discovered in a sack of old English stamps.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—An interesting note is given on the watermarks N.S.W. and Crown of these stamps by Mr. A. E. Weightman, R.N., in the *Australian Philatelist* of January last :

"In the list of New South Wales stamps in *Oceania* it is stated that paper bearing the watermark Crown and N.S.W. was first used in 1871 for 1d., 2d., and 9d. stamps ; in 1872 for 6d. ; in 1876 for 1s. ; in 1878 for 4d. The list gives a second issue of these stamps, some made in 1882, others in the following year, excepting the 9d., which does not appear to have been re-issued.

"This second issue of these stamps was made on similar paper to the former, but with the difference that a new watermark was used."

Mr. Weightman adds that the earlier issued is the smaller, and gives the following measurements, which we take the liberty of giving for the benefit of our readers :

Watermark Small Crown, 1871-8.

Extreme breadth of crown	8 mm.	Height of letters	6 mm.
Extreme height of crown	10 mm.	Extreme breadth of lettering	14 mm.
Height of cross	4 mm.	Breadth of strokes of letters	$\frac{3}{4}$ mm.
Space between crown & letters	$2\frac{1}{2}$ mm.		

Watermark Large Crown, 1882-3.

Extreme breadth of crown	$10\frac{1}{2}$ mm.	Extreme breadth of lettering	13 mm.
Extreme height of crown	10 mm.	Height of letters	$6\frac{1}{2}$ mm.
Height of cross	$1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.	Breadth of strokes of letters	$\frac{1}{2}$ mm.
Space between crown & letters	3 mm.		

The author of the paper further adds :

"The 1d., 2d., 3d., and 4d. stamps are to be found on the paper of both watermarks. I have not seen the 5d. on the small crown watermark paper, but most probably it is easily to be found. The 6d. is on both varieties of watermark paper. The 9d. is probably only to be found on the small crown paper. The 1s. is also on both papers. The small crown watermark paper is most commonly perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$, 10, $10 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 10$. The large crown paper is most commonly perforated 11×12 , but is found with many varieties of perforation, though I should not expect to find it perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$."

This is only another instance—were such needed—of the knowledge that comes by *studying the stamps themselves*, and we congratulate Mr. Weightman upon the careful and conscientious study he has made on these watermarks, forming as it does an addition to our previous knowledge on the subject.

ST. VINCENT.—Mr. William Thorne has kindly shewn us a pair of the 6d., no watermark series (1st issue), imperforate vertically. The stamps in question are of a dark full slightly bluish-green shade, and with the fine semi-blind perforation gauging about $15\frac{1}{2}$.

UNITED STATES.—Mr. W. Thorne kindly writes us as follows from New York :

"I secured from a dealer in Washington a block of four (4), each of the \$4 and \$5 U.S., 1890 issue, imperf., having had from the same source some two years ago a block of eight of the \$2, same issue ; none of the other values have been seen as yet."

These values imperforate are new to us ; but we presume, as in the case of many other stamps, Colonial or European, they were not issued thus.

It appears that two varieties of the 12 c. of the 1870 issue have been discovered ; in the first (1870) the numeral "12" has the two inner curves on the left hand terminating in a fine point ; in the second (? 1873 and after) these two curves are more bent round, and terminate in circles or points. From the illustrations given by the *Philatelic Journal of America*, to whom we are indebted for the information, we should gather that the second variety is caused by a slight retouch. The two varieties would appear to be of about equal rarity, or the reverse. Our contemporary further adds :

"Mr. Tiffany has discovered a new variety of the 15 c. stamp, type of 1870 issue, in which there is an inscription at the top, 'United States Postage,' and the words 'fifteen cents' at the bottom in a perfectly blank label. In the commoner variety of these stamps this label is inlaid with fine lines. This variety is probably very scarce, as only two copies have thus far been discovered, and many thousand stamps have been examined."

THE FIRST WEST AUSTRALIA FOURPENCE.

AS evidence of the general interest taken in the remarks by Messrs. Bacon and Castle in our January and February numbers of this year, we have received quite a number of specimens from collectors and dealers, purporting to be varieties of the 4d. of Issue I., differing from the normal type. Amongst these, however, we have been unable to discover any variety other than those illustrated in January. No. 12, with the narrow "N" in "PENCE," was submitted to us both by the Rev. G. H. Raynor and Mr. W. T. Wilson ; but beyond these two so far we have not seen any variety from the normal type, other than caused by slightly defective or careless printing. Mr. W. T. Wilson kindly sent for our inspection two entire panes—of the usual dullish and medium blue shade, which he assumes to be the first and third panes of the sheet of 240—which are very interesting, and with regard to which we shall have some notes to add on an early opportunity.

Occasional Notes.

THE U.S. ENVELOPES SUPPLEMENT.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

WE regret that, owing to the great expense incurred in the production of this work, which has far exceeded the amount anticipated, the selling price will require a substantial enhancement. In order, however, not to disappoint those of our readers who may not yet have supplied themselves with copies, we propose, until the 15th of next month, to supply single copies at the previously advertised rate. After that date the price

will be ten shillings per copy. We may add that, as but a limited number of these fine really proof impressions were struck off, and as the demand is very general, it is assured that this "first edition" will before very long be difficult to obtain.

As the manuscript is practically finished, we hope to be enabled to complete the Supplement, with the remaining eight pages of illustrations, in our June number, an obvious advantage over the originally proposed quarterly delivery.

THE "TAPLING COLLECTION."

MR. E. D. BACON informs us that the stamps in the cases in the King's Library at the British Museum have once more been changed, and that the following countries are now on view :

British Guiana (latter part), British Honduras, Dominica, Falkland Islands, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nevis, Royal Mail Co., St. Christopher, and St. Lucia.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE "TAPLING COLLECTION."

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE.—A horizontal strip of three of the provisional 4d. on $\frac{1}{2}$ d., showing irregular setting of the words "Four Pence."—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—A postmarked specimen of the reprints of the 1d. and 4d. "woodblock" stamps.—Capt. Charles L. Norris-Newman.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Twenty-four specimens of various proofs and essays of postage and telegraph stamps.—Herr P. von Ferrary.

MATABELELAND.—An entire sheet of telegraph stamps, consisting of six 10s., six 5s., and six 2s. 6d., and a used specimen of each value.—Capt. Charles L. Norris-Newman.

NYASSA COMPANY.—Complete set of the stamps of this Company, including pairs of the imperforate, and a vertical pair of the 20 reis without perforation between the two stamps.—Mr. William Brown.

PORTO RICO.—A horizontal strip of five unused current 1 mil^a de peso, slate-blue, stamps, with error in the inscription on the top margin of the sheet.—Mr. William Brown.

SELANGOR AND SUNGEI UJONG.—A specimen of each of the surcharged 3 cents on 5 c., carmine-rose, used in these Native States.—Mr. G. Campbell.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A pair of proofs, on unwatermarked paper, of the 6d., imperforate, dark blue, of the first issue.—Mr. W. W. Blest.

TASMANIA.—A number of specimens of the 1d. and 4d. figure watermarked stamps of 1864, with roulettes, pin, and oblique perforations.—Mr. M. P. Castle.

UNITED STATES.—One hundred specimens of the "Columbian" envelopes, including all the known die varieties, &c.—Mr. J. V. Painter.

WEST INDIES.—A number of unused specimens of the older issues of Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and one or two of the other islands. Mr. E. D. Bacon.

NEW ALBUMS FOR SPECIALISING.

WHAT enterprising firm, Messrs. Harry Hilckes and Co., Limited—the publishers of our bright and breezy contemporary, the *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*—have issued an album for "The Postal and Telegraph Adhesives of Great Britain," which is apparently to be the precursor of similar books for other countries. This album is oblong in shape, in dimensions about eight inches high by eleven wide, with a marginal line to the left, within which are printed descriptions and illustrations of the stamps and watermarks that are to follow on the same line. The exact place for each stamp is denoted by four little dotted angles—an excellent idea—while over the several spaces are given the minor differences to be acquired by the collector, such as plate numbers, cancellations, and so forth. The line-engraved and octagonal stamps, of course, commence the book, and are wisely worked out before beginning the De la Rue impressions. The style of the book, paper, and impression are excellent, and (except for a strong personal predilection for an upright shape) we can give nothing but praise for this Speciality Album, for which we venture to prophesy a wide circulation.

THE NEW CRUSADE.

AN important meeting of the leading dealers in stamps in this country, having transactions in new issues, has been convened for May 6th, 7.30 p.m., at Effingham House, on the invitation of the London Philatelic Society, to consider the question of speculative issues. We have alluded elsewhere to the importance of this subject to all concerned.

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AT BOMBAY.

WE have been favoured with a copy of a catalogue of the stamps shown at this exhibition, which was inaugurated by the Bombay Philatelic Society. The most prominent feature appears to have been constituted by the displays of the stamps of Afghanistan, Mauritius, and Portuguese Indies, in the latter case by a number of "unchronicled rarities." We are very pleased to note the ever-growing interest taken in Philately in India, and congratulate the Bombay Philatelic Society on the prominent way in which it moves with the spirit of the times.

FORGERIES.

BRITISH GUIANA.—There are some cleverly executed imitations on the market of these stamps, purporting to be the 1860 issue, on thick paper, perforated 12. Mr. H. L. Hayman has kindly shown us specimens of the 2 c., orange, thus reproduced, and there would be probably to the other values.

PARMA.—On a recent continental tour we have observed several specimens of the 1st issue of this country, of the 40 c., black on blue, being evidently reprinted from the die that has so mysteriously come into private hands, then neatly postmarked and affixed to “the original paper.” These swindling “reprints” are so dangerously alike to the *real stamps* that even the wariest collector might be deceived. We think that the Italian Government might be approached on the subject, and some steps taken to put a stop to such a glaring scandal.

NOTES FROM AUSTRALIA.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

AS long ago as March, 1894, the draft of an “Australasian Postal Convention” was submitted to the Postal Conference then sitting at Auckland. The object of the Convention was to secure uniformity in postage rates between the Australian Colonies, Tasmania, and New Zealand. It was duly accepted, and came into force on the 1st July last. One of the rates provided for was that of 1½d. for “Letter Cards.”

At the date the Convention was submitted, Victoria was the only Colony issuing a letter card, which, though it bore a stamp of one penny, was sold at three halfpence, and was permitted to be sent to any of the other Colonies without extra postage.

The 1st of July arrived, and found New South Wales the only Colony ready with its 1½d. Letter Card, which was issued to the public on Monday, 2nd July, 1894. The other Colonies seemed to be apathetic about the issue of what was generally considered to be an unnecessary form of postal stationery. Victoria decided to make no change, holding that though the expressed value of its card was 1d., the actual charge made for it was the amount provided under the Convention.

Queensland looked casually into the question, but so far has not produced the card. New Zealand, after allowing six months to elapse, placed an elaborate picture gallery of native scenery on the market—a letter card that might fairly serve the purposes of a Christmas, New Year, or birthday memento, in addition to the ordinary use.

At the end of February the other Colonies (South Australia, Tasmania, and Western Australia) are still “thinking about it.”

* * * * *

Federation is once more in the air, this time with every prospect of ultimate fulfilment. A conference of Premiers was held in Hobart this

month, and a draft bill submitted for approval of the respective Legislatures. Should the Colonies federate there will be of necessity a Federal Postage Stamp, and thus a very suitable "period" may be closed or commenced for the specialist of past or future issues. At the time the Premiers were deliberating on the larger affairs of the country the Postmasters-General met together in the same charming city, to transact the business of the Annual Postal Conference. Very little of philatelic interest was discussed on this occasion, but the "Universal" or Federal Stamp was again discussed, and again rejected.

And, I think, fairly so. Until the Colonies have a federated Revenue and a National Post-office, the introduction of a postage stamp available in all the Colonies would be open to grave objections. Small sums of money would be transmitted by means of stamps to such an extent that the revenue from Post-office orders and Postal notes would be seriously affected, and the result of a quantity of stamps purchased in one Colony being used in another, would be to the detriment of the postal revenue of the smaller Colonies, notwithstanding that a certain amount of reciprocity might be anticipated in remittances.

* * * * *

Mr. Knight, the engraver to the Queensland Government, is endeavouring to "improve" the current issue of stamps. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. wrapper is the first to receive treatment, and the adhesive stamp will follow, with the 1d., 2d., and other values in due course. The improvement consists in removing the shaded ground from behind the profile. The effect certainly has been to lighten the appearance of the stamp, but owing to the very coarse engraving of the stamp itself it would require an entire re-engraving to secure any real "improvement."

The current 1d. and 2d. have been printed on the so-called "Beer Duty" paper, *i.e.*, that used prior to 1886 for the bottled beer labels, and subsequently utilised for the large series of high value postals. This paper is somewhat thick and very white. It has the watermark of Crown over Q in a shorter and broader shape than that in the postage paper. As there are only 100 watermarks to the sheet, many of the stamps will appear to be unwatermarked, and in addition the watermark itself, even when present, is rather difficult to discover. The perforation is 13. Dissatisfaction, however, is already expressed at the absence of sticking qualities, and the thick paper is blamed. I am informed that until the anticipated supply of the usual paper is received, a thinner unwatermarked paper will be adopted.

* * * * *

The O.S. stamps of New South Wales have been withdrawn from issue, and official correspondence will in future bear neither adhesive nor impressed stamp. The letters O.H.M.S. and the name of the Department are sufficient to secure the transit of any letter or packet through the post. A heavy penalty is provided for the improper use of official envelopes, or fraudulent posting of matter purporting to be exempt. No decision has been arrived at as to the disposal of the remainders, of which there is a large quantity.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

CEYLON.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new 5 cents wrapper, with stamp of the usual design, and with the usual printed directions.

Wrapper. Five Cents, mustard on brown.

GREAT BRITAIN.—We are indebted to several correspondents for specimens of the current 3d., varying decisively from the usual stamps. The lilac-brown impression is of a paler tone than usual; but the main difference lies in the paper, which is of a warmer and brighter tint than heretofore, and can be designated orange-yellow. The stamps produced by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. evince so little variation, that this shade is noteworthy. The paper, however, is supplied to Messrs. De La Rue, and they are therefore, as Mr. Turner kindly points out, in a letter on the subject, in no way responsible for the alteration. The stamps in this particular colour have, apparently, been in very partial use in certain Post-offices.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. writes: "We have just had a large lot of envelopes stamped at Somerset House, and find that a change has been made in all except the 10d. The 6d. seems a new die, without any circles for dates; the 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., and 1s. all have the circles filled in with five white dots instead of the dates. We enclose two specimens, the 6d. simple and the 1s. + 1½d. compound, which you can return at your convenience."

LAGOS.—An emission of a Registration Envelope, with a circular stamp on the flap.

Registration Envelope. 2d., blue, size G.

NATAL.—The supply of ½d. labels having run short, the old 6d. type, with full face por-

trait of Queen, was issued on 14th March, overprinted "POSTAGE" (15 mm.) "HALF-PENNY" (14 mm.), and a line through value. The copy before us is used, and comes from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Since writing above Mr. Ridout has sent for our inspection twelve specimens, which show several varieties, chiefly in the word "POSTAGE." The above stamps were all sold within a few days of issue, hence a fresh issue had to be prepared, consisting of the current 1d. overprinted "HALF" in large capitals. These were issued on March 20th.

Adhesive. Halfpenny on 6d., red surcharge on lilac, wmk. CC, perf. 12½; varieties.

"HALF" Penny on 1d., black, surcharge on rose.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—The following cutting from the *Daily Telegraph* of Sydney, December 22nd, 1894, evidences the death of service stamps from the end of last year:

"O.S. STAMPS.

"The Postmaster-General has issued a notification that all official correspondence despatched from public officers shall be allowed to pass through the post as duly prepaid, provided the envelopes are endorsed 'O.H.M.S.', with the name of the department or branch from which they emanate in the left-hand corner. Any official found guilty of improperly using any official envelope or cover for private correspondence will be dismissed the service. The use of 'O.S.' stamps will be discontinued in future."

NEW ZEALAND.—A correspondent, writing to the *Monthly Journal*, sends a description of the views on the back of the letter card, chronicled last month. The central picture is "Sutherland Falls, 1,304 feet," that on the left, "Mitre Peak, Milford Sound," on the right, "Tongarino and Ruapehu, Lake Tanpo," and at the top, "Mount Cook, 12,349 feet."

ST. HELENA.—The recent supply of one shilling stamps, wmk. CC, sent out, have been recalled, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a new stamp in a lighter shade of green, and with the CA wmk. The surcharge is larger and the line longer than the old one.

Adhesive. 1 shilling, black and green; wmk. CA.

SEYCHELLES.—The novelties spoken of in our January issue turn out to be all *envelopes*. There is no new adhesive. The designs are very handsome. We will endeavour to illustrate them in our next.

Envelopes. 8 c., carmine.
15 c., deep blue.
30 c., brown.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The provisional 3 cents has now been replaced by a permanent stamp of the usual "De La Rue" type.

Adhesive. 3 c., carmine; wmk. Crown CA.

EUROPE.

GREECE.—*Le T.-P.* chronicles the current 5 lepta, Belgian print, perf. 11½; local impression 25 lepta, with a peculiar perforation, gauging 14½ (? private); Athens impression, issued 18 February, 1 drachma, both imperforate and perf. 11½.

Adhesives.
5 lepta, green; Belgian print; perf. 11½.
20 " carmine; local print; perf. 14½.
1 drachma, grey " imperf.
1 " " perf. 11½.

HOLLAND.—The *M. J.* states that the new Unpaid Letter stamps show one variety only—type 3 of the previous printings. A few proof sheets were printed in *ultra-marine* from the previous types, and were put into circulation.

ITALY.—We illustrate a new label of 45 centesimi.

The 10 c. post card has the date 1895.

Adhesive. 45 c., reseda.



AMERICA.

COLOMBIA.—A new 5 c. adhesive was issued on the 10th January, of which we annex an illustration.

Adhesive.
5 c., brown on straw; perf. 12.

GUATEMALA.—*Le T.P.* mentions a new value in the current type—6 centavos. The 5 centavos value has received the surcharge 1895—1 *centavo*, similar type to the 1894 provisional. An official order authorising them is dated 14th January, 1895.

Adhesives. 6 c., lilac.
1 c. on 5 c., black; red surch. on violet.



MEXICO.—The *Monthly Journal* is informed of the current 12 c., printed in *vermilion* on the watermarked paper, the new series being almost ready; only a very small quantity was printed.

Adhesive. 12 c., vermillion; wmk.; perf. 12.

From Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. we have received eleven values of the long-expected new set. They are of five types—Type 1, an excursionist with a bag on his back, accompanied by a dog; "CORREOS" above, "MEXICO" and the values in curved letters below, value also in numerals at sides. Type 2, a similar individual riding on a horse, accompanied by a mule, value in numerals at top corner, and below "CORREOS," the value in letters on a rounded oblong, and "MEXICO." Type 3, Statue of Guatimozin, the last Aztec Emperor, with pillars at either side, "CORREOS" at top, "REPUBLICANA" "MEXICANA" on a sloping scroll at either side of centre, below large numeral "5" and "CINCO CENTAVOS." Type 4, a stage coach with six visible passengers, drawn by five mules; above "CORREOS," and value in ornamented circular tablets on either side; below "MEXICO," and the value in letters in two lines. Type 5, a locomotive with two carriages, running apparently on the sea-shore; a sailing boat appears out at sea; above is "UN PESO" on an arched tablet, with numerals at either side; "CORREOS MEXICO" at base, printed on thin white wove paper, perf. 12, except the 10 c., which appears to be on *laid* paper, watermark as usual.

Adhesives. 1 c., green; Type 1.
2 c., carmine "
3 c., brown "
4 c., vermillion; Type 2.
5 c., ultramarine; Type 3.
10 c., lilac; Type 4.
12 c., olive-brown; Type 2.
15 c., blue; Type 4.
20 c., claret "
50 c., violet "
1 peso, light brown; Type 5.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

COOK ISLANDS.—The post card has lost the key pattern stamp, and now has one of similar type to the current adhesives.

Post Card. 1 penny, blue on yellow.

NATIVE INDIAN STATES.—*Sirmoor.*—We illustrate the design of the recently-chronicled new issue.

ORANGE FREE STATES.—*Le C. de T.-P.* chronicles a new provisional 1d. post



card, made by surcharging the current 3d. adhesive "1d." in black, and pasting on white cards. In order not to confound the 1d., mauve, of the new 1894 issue, with the 2 pence of the same colour of the 1883 issue (still in use), the latter has been surcharged "2d."

Adhesive. 2d., mauve, black surch.
Post Card. 1d. on 3d., blue, black surch., white.

PHILIPPINES.—The following appear to be new colours:

Adhesives. 2 c. de peso, grey-brown.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ de centavo, violet-brown.

TRANSVAAL.—We have the 1s. value in the new type.

Adhesive. 1s., green.

Mr. Beeman informs the *P. J. of G. B.* that the 6d. Queen's head has been surcharged "S. A. R., $\frac{1}{2}$ d."; but Mr. Nankivell writes us that the correct initials are "Z. A. R.," not "S. A. R."; also that the stock of 159,000 handed over to the Boers at the end of the British occupation in 1881 was largely used for telegrams, and the balance (according to Mr. Tamsen, who quotes official documents) of 11,220 was in 1885 overprinted "Twelve pence—Z. A. R." so that, as a matter of fact, no 6d. Queen's heads have remained in stock to be surcharged since 1885. Evidently there is something wrong, and dealers and collectors should be on their guard.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. DUKE ALFRED OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA K.G., &c.

Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1894-95:

President—THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—R. PEARCE.

Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.

Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON.

R. EHRENBACH.

D. GARTH.

A. W. CHAMBERS.

E. B. EVANS.

T. WICKHAM JONES.

THE eighteenth meeting of the season 1894-95 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 22nd March, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the following members were also in attendance, viz., Messrs. E. D. Bacon, D. Garth, R. Ehrenbach, H. R. Oldfield, G. B. Routledge, W. Silk, C. W. Viner, T. Maycock, E. L. Cator, J. G. Tolhurst, T. H. R. Crowle, E. J. Nankivell, F. E. Horton, N. Newton, R. Pearce, and R. Meyer.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, a letter written on behalf of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Michael Michaelovitch, in response to the resolution of condolence with the family of the late Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch, was read, and was directed to be entered on the minutes.

The receipt of the undermentioned works for the Society's Library was reported, and it was directed that the same be acknowledged with thanks, viz., from Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen, "A Priced Catalogue of

the Postage Adhesives of Great Britain"; from Mr. John K. Tiffany, "A St. Louis Symposium."

Mr. Thos. Dorman, proposed by Mr. D. A. King, and seconded by Major Evans; and Mr. Wm. C. Stone, proposed by Major Evans, and seconded by Mr. J. K. Tiffany, were elected members of the Society.

Mr. E. D. Bacon then read a paper on "Early New Zealand Stamps," written from information furnished to him by Mr. A. T. Bate. The paper dealt with the first locally-printed stamps, and gave copies of the official correspondence relative thereto. The latter part of the paper consisted of extracts from various annual reports of the Colonial Postmaster-General, and other items of interest sent by Mr. Bate.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Bate and Mr. Bacon, proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by Mr. Oldfield, was passed, and the paper was handed over to the Vice-President for publication in the *London Philatelist*.

In pursuance of notice previously given, Mr. Castle then moved :

"That this Society is of opinion that the great increase in the production of speculative stamps for sale to collectors threatens to have a very serious effect on the collection of genuine postal issues throughout the world, and that a committee be appointed to consider the best means to be adopted to put a stop to the scandal."

This was seconded by Mr. Nankivell, and carried unanimously after an interesting discussion, in the course of which many

suggestions were made as to the nature of the steps which might be adopted to cope with a generally-admitted evil.

On the motion of Mr. Garth, seconded by Mr. Bacon, the following members were appointed as a committee in pursuance of the terms of Mr. Castle's motion, viz., Messrs. Castle, Nankivell, Tilleard, Ehrenbach, and Oldfield.

THE nineteenth meeting, held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 29th March, 1895, was devoted to the revision of the reference list of the stamps of *Hanover*.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. WILSON.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

February 21st.—Mr. M. P. Castle sent his fine collection of Swiss Cantonals for exhibition. The President gave all necessary information and remarks. The whole collection was certainly a great surprise to very many of the members, who had scarcely ever seen some of the varieties which were here shewn in such profusion.

A very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Castle for sending his stamps for the inspection of the members brought a very interesting meeting to a close.

March 7th.—Walter Morley, Esq. (Totten-

ham), Mrs. L. Rondet (Jersey), Harry Hilckes, Esq. (London), Monsieur P. de la Tournière (Paris), E. F. Broderip, Esq. (Clifton), were unanimously elected members.

Messrs. Wilson, Pimm, and others then exhibited fine collections of the obsolete stamps of Leeward Islands, etc.

The last two exchange packets were £197 5s. 1d. and £248 19s. 5d. respectively. The December packet was returned to the Hon. Sec. on March 14th, and all accounts due to members were settled on that day and the following one.

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—OLIVER FIRTH.

Hon. Secretary—W. H. SCOTT, 1, Piccadilly, Bradford.

THE monthly meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday, the 2nd instant, Mr. Oliver Firth (the President) occupying the chair. There was a good muster of members present, and two visitors. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been confirmed, and two new members elected, it was on the proposition of the President, seconded by Mr. Stamford, unanimously resolved "That this Society heartily endorses the action and attitude of Mr. M. P. Castle, as explained by him at the annual dinner of the London Philatelic Society, held on the 26th February last, regarding the speculative issue of new stamps," and the Hon. Secretary was desired to forward a copy

of such resolution to the Hon. Secretary of the London Society.

It was felt by members of the Society that an effort ought to be made by the various societies to adopt some means by which a stop could be put to such speculative issues, and it was thought that this could be done by united action. A discussion then took place on the stamps of Nova Scotia, which was opened by the President, who dealt with the question in a very lucid and interesting manner, illustrating his remarks with a very nice collection of his own of the stamps of this country. The next meeting, which will be the Annual General Meeting of the Society, will be held on Tuesday, the 7th May next.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—M. P. CASTLE.*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*—A. DE WORMS, 27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

THE tenth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, February 25th, at 7.45 p.m. Present—Messrs. W. T. Willett, J. W. Gillespie, P. de Worms, D. Pfenninger, C. R. Morse, E. E. Manwaring, A. de Worms, H. C. Bembury, S. Burrows. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Willett took the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. J. W. Gillespie exhibited his collection of Denmark, Iceland, Schleswig-Holstein, and Danish West Indies, by which he illustrated the interesting paper he read on the stamps of these countries. He gave an account of the different issues, and said that of the current Denmark 5, 10, 20, ore, there were two types with large and small figures of value in the corners, and that both varieties were on the same sheet, as he showed an unsevered pair of the two types. He also mentioned, what he believed had not previously been noticed, that in the issues of 1851-53 there is over the post-horn, in the lower angles, a minute figure of value in the left, and an "S" in the right. A vote

of thanks was accorded to Mr. Gillespie for his paper.

THE eleventh meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 11th, at 7.45 p.m. Present—Messrs. M. P. Castle, P. de Worms, E. E. Manwaring, D. Pfenninger, C. R. Morse, J. W. Gillespie, R. J. Thrupp, W. T. Willett, S. Burrows, C. D. Marshall, A. de Worms, W. H. Cruthwell. The President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Secretary read a paper on the imperforate, perforated, and no watermark issues of Ceylon, he described at some length all the chief points of interest in connection with these three issues, and exhibited his collection of the same, containing, among many other fine specimens, imperf. 4d., unused, and a pair used; pair of 2s., used, no watermark; 1s., imperf., unused; several shades of all the perf. and no watermark issues, etc. He also showed an almost complete series of the envelopes, unused and entire. The President proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Hon. Secretary for his paper, which was seconded by Dr. S. Burrows, and carried.

THE LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH.*Hon. Treasurer*—EUGENE EGLEY, 88, Caledonian Road, Leeds.

SEVENTY-SECOND meeting, held February 16th, 1895. Attendance 8, the President in the chair.

The 4th rule was altered, pursuant to notice, so as to admit of philatelists who are neither resident nor engaged in business within the city of Leeds being eligible for election as corresponding members, with full right to the Exchange Club, at half a crown annual subscription, and no entrance fee.

The Rev. T. S. Fleming then exhibited various new issues and unused stamps of Russia and Turkey.

Mr. Eugene Egley gave an interesting and exhaustive paper on the "Cantonal Stamps of Switzerland, and their Forgeries," illustrated by his own collection and the Society's "Black Book."

SEVENTY-THIRD meeting, held March 2nd, 1895. Attendance 11, the President in the chair.

The Rev. T. S. Fleming showed an entire sheet of the current 2 cent stamp of Ceylon, plate 2, pale green.

Mr. J. H. Thackrah showed what was considered to be an imperforate copy of plate 13 of the halfpenny stamp of Great Britain. New provisional Queenslands were shown by the President, new Servians by Mr. Egley, United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Co. stamps by Mr. Sieber, and the O.H.M.S. envelopes of New South Wales, now used without stamps, by Mr. Roebuck.

The members then proceeded to compare their collections of the twopenny stamps of Great Britain, including Mulready envelopes,

the necessary explanations being read out by Mr. W. Denison Roebuck, F.L.S., and the President.

SEVENTY-FOURTH meeting, held 8th March, 1895. An informal conversational meeting, at which 4 members were present.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

Hon. Secretary—W. DORNING BECKTON, Daisy Bank, Swinton Park.

THE thirteenth meeting of the session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel on Friday, March 29th, 1895, the President in the chair, supported by the Vice-President, Hon. Secretary, Assistant Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Messrs. Collett, Munn, Grunewald, Gibson, Petri, Harrison, Pemberton, North, Prout, Jones, Whapham, Ranch, Ostara, Pellew, and one visitor. After the formal business, which included the election of a new member, the Secretary announced that an invitation had been received from the Liverpool Society, and that the Liverpool Society desired one or two of the members to read a paper before their Society. It was resolved that the invitation be accepted, and that the Secretary be instructed to inform the Liverpool Society that one or other of the members of the Manchester Society would on that occasion, as requested, read a paper. The President then read his paper on "Additions to the Catalogue of English Stamps, published by Messrs. Harry Hilckes & Co., Limited." After paying a tribute to the care and skill which the author had bestowed on his work, Mr. Roberts mentioned the following stamps (all of which, other than those specially excepted, were in his collection) which he did not find mentioned in the work in question :

$\frac{3}{4}$ d., Plate 1, imperf.

1d. A sheet of stamps was also prepared, but not issued for use, with a silk thread running horizontally through the paper in lieu of a watermark. This is known as the Dickinson paper.

1d., Die II., wmk. large Crown, rose red, imperf.

1d., Plate 146, horizontal pair, used, imperf.

1d., Plate 191, vertical pair, used, imperf.; was in the Philbrick Collection.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1884, proof in yellow, perf.

$1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1884, proof in blue, perf.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1884, lilac, imperf.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1884, proof in brown, perf.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., Plate 2, L.H. F.L. (recent discovery).

3d., Plate 3, perforated. Only one copy of this stamp is known to exist used. It was

in the collection of the late Mr. G. W. Binns, of Manchester, and sold by him to the late Mr. Tapling. It is now in the British Museum. Mr. Beckton informs me that perforated copies are being offered in London unused, but they are perforated with the one penny machine, and appear quite different to the specimen in the Tapling collection. These stamps are said to have been found in the effects of an official at Somerset House, and to have been perforated many years ago.

3d., Plate 4, no wmk., imperf. Probably a proof.

6d., octagonal. These exist with deep *blutée* gum. The bluing does not show on the face.

6d., 1856, Plate 1, imperf., used.

6d., Plate 9, imperf., in the following trial colours : Brown-red, orange, ochre-yellow, chestnut brown.

2s., brown, Plate 1, imperf.

5s., Plate 1, imperf.

£1, 1884. The watermark was altered from Orb to three Crowns again before the colour was changed to green. These stamps can be distinguished from the first printing by reason of their being printed in a darker shade.

1884 ISSUE.

The following values, overprinted, "specimen" exist perf. 12 : $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., and 5s.

ADDENDA.

10d., red-brown, Plate 2. A copy on the original envelope, postmarked 12th Decr., 1867, belonging to Mr. W. T. Wilson, was shown at the London Exhibition. Another copy is known to exist dated 11.11.67.

2s., Plate 3, is known used in an Australian collection.

1d., black, 1840. A specimen with double letters in the lower left corner is in Mr. Beckton's collection.

Mr. Roberts then dealt with the present price of English stamps, after which he received a hearty vote of thanks for his paper.

THE NEW YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ROOM—1, EVERETT BUILDING, 25, ANN STREET.

President—FREDERICK DE COPPETT.

Secretary—FREDERICK AUGUSTUS NAST.

THE regular meeting was held on Monday evening, February 18th, with the following members present: Messrs. Thorne, Deats, Herrick; Perozo, Scott, Davison, Brevoort, Clotz, Jones, and Duveen.

Meeting opened at 8.15 by President Thorne.

In the balloting for new members Mr. Wm. Herrick was appointed teller, and declared the following unanimously elected: Geo. Eberhardt, J. M. Andreini, and R. W. Quigley.

The resignation of Mr. Geo. H. Watson was received and accepted, after which, on motion of Mr. Clotz, Mr. Watson was elected to honorary membership in the Society.

The resignation of Mr. F. C. Foster was read, and ordered accepted at the end of the year as requested. The resignation of Mr. E. J. Rall was also read and accepted.

Mr. J. W. Scott made a speech highly eulogistic of the Society's Secretary, in support of a motion to tender him a complimentary dinner at Delmonico's on his return from Italy, the participants to contribute \$5 each, the deficiency to be made up from the treasury. Among other things Mr. Scott stated that the success of any Society mainly depended on securing an efficient Secretary, and while all appreciated the honour of an election to the presidency, and few objected to taking charge of the cash, all fought shy of the secretaryship, a position involving much work and little thanks. This Society has been particularly

fortunate in its Secretary, and he thought that it would be a graceful thing to welcome our Secretary on his return by an elegant banquet at one of the leading hotels. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clotz, and after some remarks by members was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The President appointed Messrs. Scott and Clotz as committee to carry out the wishes of the Society and make all arrangements. Members intending to be present will please notify either of the above-named gentlemen.

Mr. Herrick gave notice of a paper for the April meeting, and Mr. Deats one for the meeting in May.

There being no paper read at this meeting, the time was spent in examining the stamps exhibited, Mr. Thorne having his United States, Great Britain and Colonies, with Confederate locals and U.S. postage. The magnificent display of rare things was thoroughly enjoyed by the members.

Mr. Herrick exhibited an unsevered pair of 2 k., current issue of Russia, with thunderbolts, unperforated; Mr. Thorne a block of nine Martinique, 1892, 5 c. on 25 c., black on pink, there being an error in the centre stamp, it being printed 95 c. instead of 05 c.

Mr. Brevoort had his collection of United States general issue on exhibit, while Mr. Deats brought a book of rare British colonials.

Owing to the fine display of stamps the meeting adjourned at a late hour.

ALVAH DAVISON, *Secretary pro tem.*

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT.

Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—A. LEVY.

THE tenth ordinary meeting was held at 9a, Princess Square, on February 20th, the President in the chair.

Mrs. Burley Grant, Miss F. L. Fowler, and Mr. C. Manly (Bath), were elected members.

THE eleventh ordinary meeting was held on March 13th, when a display of the stamps of Queensland took place. Messrs. Barrett, Stevens, Milton, Kuttner (London), and Levy exhibited their collections; and, with the exception of the small series of high values, every issue was fully represented, particular attention having been paid to perforation and shade.

During the evening the President and Vice-President gave short addresses, explanatory of the exhibits, Mr. Stevens having made a special study of the perforations and various misprints of the later issues. Mr. Kuttner's exhibit was, as usual, very extensive, and contained some fine specimens and rarities. Among Mr. Barrett's stamps, watermarked first star, were a peculiar silver-grey shade of the one shilling, and an extremely rich brown three-penny—the latter, shewing every line of the engraving, would probably be one of the first impressions taken from the plate.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.*

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

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THE NEW CRUSADE.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—In the current number of the *London Philatelist* I see notice of new issues of Sirmoor and Bhopal, the latter with its usual errors.

Now it may not be generally known, but the Indian government has, or is, concluding treaties with the Native States for the suppression of these useless labels as being an infringement of the government postal monopoly. It is probable, therefore, that the States will get out as much new trash as possible before these facts are known.

I can vouch for the accuracy of the above, as I got it first-hand from a member of the Indian Political Department when lately home on leave.

This seems to point to a place in your promised "Black List."

Believe me, sir, yours truly,

A COLLECTOR.

April 12th, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—In reference to your note in the March number of the *London Philatelist*, under Manchester writer, respecting "worthless issues," I for one most heartily endorse the suggestion that you publish a "Black List" of the wretched countries which bid fair to ruin Philately by their miserable tactics. Their so-called "issues" should be let severely alone by all who are genuine "stamp-lovers."

Thanking you in anticipation, and with kind regards,

Believe me, yours sincerely,

P. J. L.

April 2nd, 1895.

"THE ROCK AHEAD."

DEAR SIR,—Your Society should refuse the advertisements of all dealers who trade in "worthless" issues. What is required by collectors is a catalogue of what are "genuine" issues. You should publish your "Black List," and advertise the same in the public Press. You will, however, never raise Philately to a fine art as long as the dealers sell *everything* that is published. The dealers are the sinners, as most collectors must go to them for advice. I do not, however, see why "remainders" of genuine issues should be barred.

If Stanley Gibbons and other leading firms do as suggested by "A Member of the Manchester Philatelic Society," in your present issue, I do not think their business would suffer, as many collectors like myself are afraid of buying new issues in the fear of investing in worthless rubbish.

I enclose my card, and subscribe myself,

Yours faithfully,

A SUBSCRIBER.

March 30th, 1895.

WHAT DOES A GUARANTEE MEAN?

DEAR SIR,—In the interests of Philately I ask the question! Some years ago I purchased a surcharged stamp, knowing it to be scarce, on the assurance that it must be genuine, as it was guaranteed with the initials of a well-known dealer, who is now manager for one of the leading London firms. This gentleman now admits that the surcharge is forged, and the only reason he can give for having guaranteed it is, that he *believed it at the time to be genuine!*

Is it generally known among collectors that this is all that a guarantee means?

I enclose my card, and remain,

Yours faithfully,

March 19th, 1895.

A M.L.P.S.

[The "belief" would probably be founded on good grounds, *i.e.* expert advice; and provided this belief was genuine, and the vendor now refunds, we fail to see any lack of justice.—ED.]

THE STAMPS OF HOLLAND.

SIR,—I have been looking over my Dutch stamps in connection with Mr. Gillespie's paper in the February number of *The London Philatelist*, and find I have several varieties not mentioned by him, and of which I now send you a list, thinking it may possibly be of interest. Several of my varieties are mentioned in a similar list given in *Le Questionneur* of January (reprinted from *The Stamp News Annual* of 1893).

Yours truly,

A CORRESPONDENT.

GRAND HOTEL, MENTONE, FRANCE,

March 21st.

P.S.—Mr. Gillespie apparently puts the vertical figure first—*ex.* $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ —which seems to be the most common variety: perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ horizontally and 12 vertically.

ADDITIONAL PERFORATIONS.

Horizontal number given first.

HOLLAND.

1864. 15 c., 13×12 .

1867. 5 c., $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, 13×14 .

10 c., $13\frac{1}{2}$, $13 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

1872. 5 c., $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13, 13×14 .

10 c., $12\frac{1}{2}$, 13; 15 c., $12\frac{1}{2}$.

$12\frac{1}{2}$ c., 13, $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

20 c., $12\frac{1}{2}$.

1868-70. Arms.

$\frac{1}{2}$ c., 1 c., 2 c., $2\frac{1}{2}$ c., $13\frac{1}{2}$.

1876. Figures.

$\frac{1}{2}$ c., $12\frac{1}{2}$, $13\frac{1}{2}$.

1 c., $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $12\frac{1}{2}$.

2 c., $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $12\frac{1}{2}$.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ c., $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$, $12\frac{1}{2}$.

1892. Queen.

2 g. 50, $11\frac{1}{2}$.

1881. UNPAID LETTER STAMPS.

Type I. 20 c., $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

" 25 c., $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

" g. 1, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

Type II. 5 c., $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

" $12\frac{1}{2}$ c., $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

" 15 c., $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

Type III. 1 c., $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$.

" 10 c., $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

" g. 1, $12\frac{1}{2} \times 12$.

THE STAMPS OF HOLLAND.

DEAR SIR,—Will you be so kind as to allow me some remarks on what Mr. Robert Ehrenbach wrote in the reviews of the *London Philatelist* of March, 1895, pp. 80 and 81, about the *Standard Work of the Stamps, &c., of Holland and its Colonies*?

I regret very much that Mr. R. E. does not understand the Dutch language, else he would not have written the first 35 lines of his copy.

I regret much more that he and many others who specialize the stamps of Holland are disappointed by our description of the adhesive issues.

We go as well as our esteemed *confrères* on the other side of the Channel into detail, but we do not like to go so far that even a specialist cannot find his way out of the labyrinth. There has been only one die used for the three values (without the figure of value, these being then added for each) of the first two issues. If there had been another die, surely we should have mentioned it.

If Mr. R. E. could read Dutch, he would see that on page 7 of our work is noted that the dark blue (shades) 5 cents was issued 1st January, 1852, and the light milky-blue on 15th January, 1852. (See page 42.) Concerning the perforations of Issue III., Mr. R. E. can read on page 8 that we only measure the perforations at the lower part (horizontal) of the stamp, and not note the compound ones, because this should bring us too far. I regret to say that our stamps, in former times, have been so badly perforated, that a genuine statement of compound perforations is not to be given by anyone. Such a statement should discourage every collector, even the best specialist.

There is, in all the stamps of Holland and its colonies, no perforation 14. He who pretends this has no good perforation gauge. Our highest perforation is $13\frac{1}{2}$. (I recommend the perforation gauges of the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., New York, and Johan K. Koning, Amsterdam). We never saw in Holland a stamp of Issue III. 15 c. perforated $10\frac{1}{2}$, and therefore naturally we did not mention it. But we shall be very glad if Mr. M. P. Castle would send it to me, to show it to all (Dutch) first specialists. I guarantee that he shall have it back again safe and well.

Concerning any issue of stamps of Holland

on bluish paper, Mr. R. E. makes a great mistake.

We Dutchmen (specialists), who have seen millions of Dutch stamps, are not colour-blind, I dare say, but we do not know anything about Dutch stamps on bluish paper. Only the first issues of Suriname and Curaçao are on light greyish paper.

The presumption of Mr. R. E. that the imperforate varieties of the perforated issues have accidentally made their appearance is

very right, because if they were official we should have noted the official documents about them.

I pay hereby very kindly to Mr. R. E. my thanks for what he wrote about our *Standard Work*, and I hope that he will accept what I wrote here in a friendly way.

M. J. MYER,

*President of the Commission of Compiling of a
Standard Work of the Stamps, &c., of
Holland and its Colonies.*

THE HAGUE, KANAAL 19 M., April, 1895.

The Market.

MESSRS. R. F. ALBRECHT & CO.

THIS Company sold, on March 5th and 6th last, the fine collection of West Indian stamps, aggregated by Mr. Henry Clotz, the well-known New York collector, and a member of the London Philatelic Society. We give some of the most notable prices, in order that collectors may compare the equivalent values between this and the other side of the water. Prices ruled high, in many cases realising much above current catalogue values. To facilitate reference we have converted the prices realised into current English coin, taking \$5 as = £1.

	£	s.	d.
Antigua, 6d., green, imperf., unwatermarked, unused . . .	7	4	0
Ditto, Revenue 1d., postally used . . .	5	2	0
Bahamas, 1d., rose-red, imperf., unsevered pair . . .	4	0	0
Ditto, 1d., rose-red, used . . .	3	0	0
Barbados, 1852, 4d., red, blue paper, unsevered pair, unused . . .	2	8	0
Ditto, 1d., blue, white paper, unsevered pair, unused . . .	2	12	0
Ditto, 1d. on 5/-, unsevered pair, large D (surcharge downwards), used . . .	17	4	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto (surcharge upwards), used . . .	17	4	0
Ditto, ditto, small D (surcharge downwards) used . . .	17	4	0
Bermuda, 1873, 3d. on 2d., blue . . .	6	3	0
British Guiana, 1850, 12 c., black on blue; straight tail to 2; "1" of "British" slanting . . .	12	0	0
Ditto, 1850, 1 c., magenta, unused . . .	12	0	0
Ditto, „ 4 c., blue . . .	6	8	0
Ditto, 1856, 4 c., magenta . . .	21	0	0

	£	s.	d.
British Guiana, 1862, Provisional, 2 c., yellow, border of pearls . . .	6	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 2 c., yellow, border of grapes . . .	5	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 c., blue, border of hearts . . .	6	6	0
Ditto, 1876, 96 c., bistre, unused . . .	3	0	0
Dominica, 1d. on 6d., green; on part of original letter . . .	36	4	0
Falkland Isles, 4d., dark grey, imperf.	2	0	0
Jamaica, Revenue, 1/-, carmine, postally used . . .	2	0	0
Montserrat, CA, 4d., blue . . .	3	12	0
Nevis, engraved, blue paper, 1s., green	3	12	6
Ditto, ditto, 1s., yellow-green . . .	2	7	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, ditto, (very fine) . . .	2	11	0
Ditto, litho, 6d., olive . . .	7	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 4d., orange, entire sheet of twelve . . .	49	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., light green, entire sheet of twelve . . .	19	11	0
Ditto, CA, 6d., green . . .	6	4	6
St. Kitts, small surcharge, 1d. on 2½d. . .	16	0	0
St. Vincent, 5s., rose, unused . . .	6	8	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto . . .	6	12	0
Ditto, provisional, 1d. on half a 6d. green, unsevered unused pair . . .	8	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 4d., in black, on 1s. vermilion, on part original cover . . .	5	8	6
Tobago, CA, 6d., brown, unused . . .	6	4	0
Ditto, CC, 1d., penmarked on half a 6d., orange, used, on part of original . . .	5	5	0
Trinidad, litho, 1d., dark blue . . .	5	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 1d., gray-blue, unsevered pair . . .	12	0	0
Ditto, litho (coarse), 1d., pale red . . .	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Trinidad, litho (coarse), 1d., on entire cover	10	4	0
Ditto, engraved, 6d., green, unused	12	4	0
Turks Islands, 1s., prune	16	0	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 1s., 6d., rose	5	0	0

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER.

A fine collection was disposed of at the two days' sale of March 28th and 29th last. It included a copy of the "Brattleboro," which reached its reserve of £100. The following were also good realisations :

Great Britain, V R, unused	11	0	0
Mecklenberg - Schwerin, 2 sch., grey-lilac	3	3	0
Ditto, Strelitz, 1 sch., violet	4	10	0
Oldenburg, 2nd issue, $\frac{1}{3}$ sgr., black on green	5	5	0
France, 1 franc, vermilion	6	10	0
Levant, 2 piastres, red and blue, unused	7	0	0
Moldavia, 54 paras, blue on green	13	0	0
Ditto, 108 paras, blue on pink	31	0	0
Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red, unused	33	0	0
Ditto, 1852, ditto, unused	20	0	0
Ditto, 1853, 2 reales, red	5	5	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie	9	0	0
Ditto, 3 lire (not fine)	26	0	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperforate	20	0	0
Ditto, 1s. 9d., green, imperf., pair	11	0	0
Ditto, 2s., blue, imperf., unused (not fine)	12	0	0
Ditto, Service, 2s., blue, imperf. and unused	5	0	0
Mauritius, post paid, 1d., vermilion	6	0	0
British Guiana, Provisional, 4 c., black on blue, border of hearts and pearls, unused and signed, No. 6 on plate	9	0	0
Nevis, 1s., green on bluish	5	10	0
St. Lucia, 1s., orange, black surch., unused	3	10	0
St. Vincent, 4d., yellow, unused	2	15	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s.	7	7	0
New Brunswick, 1s., mauve (skinned)	6	15	0
St. Louis, 10 c., black	18	0	0

	£	s.	d.
St. Louis, 10 c., black	19	0	0
Ditto, ditto	18	0	0
Antioquia, 1st issue, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c., blue	10	0	0
New South Wales, Sydney, Plate I., 2d., blue	7	10	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY AND CO.

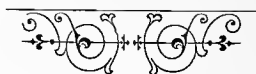
The sale of April 3rd included

India, "Service," 8 as., lilac and green, unused	9	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 as., unused	5	10	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used	4	10	0
Ditto, 2 as., short type, black surch., unused	4	15	0
Labuan, 6 c. on 16 c., red surch. on blue (fair)	5	5	0
Mauritius Envelope, 1s., yellow, unused	31	0	0
Natal, first issue, 1s., buff, two specimens on original	10	0	0
Bolivia, 11 stars, 500 c., unused	3	12	6
Newfoundland, 4d., carmine-vermilion, unused	24	10	0
Ditto, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., ditto, ditto	10	10	0
Ditto, 6d., orange-vermilion, unused	11	10	0

Messrs. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON.

The following good prices were realised on March 27th last. The British Guianas, the property of Mr. E. C. Luard, a member of the London Philatelic Society, obtained record prices, and were well deserving of it, being fine copies, on the original envelopes, mostly cut square.

British Guiana, 1850, 4 c., blue, on original	8	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 12 c., light blue, cut to shape, on original	14	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 8 c., green, cut to shape, on original	20	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto	24	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 8 c., green, and 4 c., orange, used, together on original	120	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 c., primrose, on tissue, used, on original	60	0	0



THE
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IV.

MAY, 1895.

No. 41.

The New Crusaders.



THE call to arms has been bravely responded to all along the line, and the new Crusade against the degradation of Philately has already a noble army of adherents. It is difficult to say whether the movement inspires more enthusiasm amongst the trade or the collectors, both sections seeming to vie with each other in their complete approval of the objects of the Crusade.

The ominous note of warning as to the extreme danger to Philately caused by needless issues, sounded by Mr. Castle in his paper read before the London Philatelic Society on February the 22nd last, has been re-echoed to the full in the eminently practical and sensible letter read to the meeting on the 6th May. The most prominent names in the commercial world of Philately, such as Moens, Senf, Maury, Scott, Whitfield King, Stanley Gibbons, Mekeel, and others, give striking and unanimous evidence of the existence of the danger, and the necessity for action. To quote one instance only, as even transcending Mr. Castle's warning, "*The Rubbish coming from all quarters will be the death of Philately.*" These pregnant words are from Mons. J. B. Moens, of Brussels, the *doyen* of the trade. We can but entreat all our readers, whether buyers or sellers, to remember M. Moens' solemn prediction, and to endeavour by all legitimate and reasonable methods to avoid such a dire catastrophe.

On our part, we are so assured of the reality of the danger that we consider no sacrifice too great in order to attain the desired end. We are in possession of information that shows the urgency of the case—we allude to the fact that men who have thousands of pounds "invested" in stamps are hesitating, afraid of the future, as to whether they should not sell out—while, equally vital, others are and will be *afraid to come in*. We may perhaps be accused of unnecessary reiteration in further emphasising the tenor of remarks previously made in this journal, but we do it on behalf of the weak-kneed brethren—and, like the poor, they are always with us—

who do not look beyond the income of the day, and ignore the foundation for that of the future.

In a movement affecting so many interests, and in so varied a manner, it is obvious that the actions of the "Committee of Public Safety" must be practical, business-like, and almost judicial in their character. Unanimity is of the greatest value to the New Crusade, and it therefore behoves everyone to avoid pushing any point too far, that has not a practical consensus of opinion behind it. The new Association must walk before it runs. It will be far easier to take prospective than retrospective action—the latter step can only be taken on the firmest ground, to avoid a stumble. We suggest that—after communication with other bodies that will assuredly be formed throughout the world—a list of the stamps eternally condemned, as well as of those which are in Philatelic Purgatory, should be published. In cases where the Committee would be unwilling to go to the length of the former condemnation, the appearance of the country's name in the suspended animation of the *Purgatorium* might have the most beneficial effect in saving the sinner! Liberias would emerge saint-like, and Seebecks as pure as the driven snow!

There is always a horrible example to be made, and one of the worst offenders generally suffers the punishment that should perhaps be equally shared by others—such is the fate of warfare. There is in this case a delinquent caught red-handed—no obscure semi-colonial, semi-savage island rock—but a "civilised" European kingdom. We allude, perforce, to Portugal. This country has already surfeited the market with needless and numberless Colonial and other issues; it has emitted a ridiculous series of "stamps" (supplied used or unused) to celebrate a mediæval navigator, and has perpetrated a philatelic fraud that is utterly unworthy of a country that is supposed to be civilised and to pay its debts! Not content with this, Portugal has announced a further series of coloured rubbish, the quantity to be issued amounting (we believe) to a face value of nearly £100,000, which it is sought to extract—beyond the amounts received for genuine postal services—from the pockets of collectors, if they are fools enough to pay it! The whole phalanx of dealers and collectors throughout the world should join hands and decline to buy, sell, or acquire any of this fishy St. Anthony Jubilee series. If this is done, the Portuguese Government will be a heavy loser by the transaction, and a blow will be struck at speculative issues that will be of far-reaching effect.

In the case of our own Colonial stamps there are also Augean stables to be cleansed. The recent appearance of surcharged Natalals—which must have been issued with the knowledge that they would be turned to speculative purposes—is a case eminently in point. The new Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps cannot do better than lay before the Government the whole facts of the case, and invite an opinion as to how far Colonial Postmasters are to be allowed to proceed in making new coinage—which it practically is—in the case of current postage stamps. The field of labour for the new Society is indeed a wide one, and we wish it all success. It is brilliantly started, it has a most able and excellent Secretary in Mr. Gordon Smith, and under these circumstances we venture to prophesy for it a successful career, that will earn the undying thanks both of the Philatelists of to-day and of the future.

Remarks on the Early Postal Rates of New Zealand.

WITH NOTES ON THE FIRST ISSUED STAMPS.

BY CHARLES H. MOTTRAM.

COMMUNICATED TO THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, JANUARY 11TH, 1895.



SEVERAL able and exhaustive contributions to the history of the interesting stamps of New Zealand having been made during the past five or six years, new information is difficult to obtain, and discovery is almost beside the question. It may not be out of place in my prefatory remarks to mention by way of summary the recent productions of writers descriptive of the postal issues of New Zealand.

The subject generally was dealt with by the late Mr. John Davies, of the New Zealand Government Stamp Department; and his paper,* which was read before the Philatelic Society of the Colony on January 9th, 1889, contained many interesting particulars hitherto unknown, conspicuous among which was the announcement, that *after* the first supply of stamps received from London with the plates, and issued on July 13th, 1855, was exhausted, Mr. J. Richardson, of Auckland, printed for the Colonial Government small numbers, as required, sometimes on blue, and at others on white wove paper, handed to him from the Colonial Secretary's Office. This information has been the cause of some discussion. Mr. Davies, however, did not describe the paper used for the *first* issued stamps, printed in London in 1854 by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Limited.

In 1892 that indefatigable investigator, Mr. E. D. Bacon, made known the result of his enquiries at Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s,† and surprised the Philatelic world by reversing the order of the blue and white wove and "star" paper issues, in placing the last named first.

This was followed in the same year by the useful suggestions of Major E. B. Evans and Mr. Bacon in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*,‡ regarding the best means of separating the undated "star" paper impressions of the London printing of 1854 from the Colonial printing of February, 1862, and following years. The question was also raised by them as to the probability of the New Zealand Government having printed, before the first issue in 1855, a quantity of stamps on the supply of six reams of "star" paper, sent out from London to the Colony with the plates and first specimens in 1854.

The eventful year 1892 was not allowed to close without a valuable paper in December by Mr. M. P. Castle, Vice-President of the Philatelic Society,

* *The Philatelic Record*, September, 1889.

† *The London Philatelist*, October, 1892.

‡ *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, October and November, 1892.

London,* upon the unwatermarked stamps of New Zealand. Immediately after the reading of this paper, on the 9th of December, a Sub-Committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. T. Maycock, Wm. Harrison, and Alfred A. Davis, to investigate and fix the dates of the early imperforate issues, and chronicle all dated specimens brought under their notice. A labour of such magnitude necessarily involved communicating far and wide, and required considerable time for such a purpose.

Mr. Bacon in the interim published a paper, in 1893,† on the now recognised first issue of New Zealand stamps, dealing once more with the colours of that and the later "star" paper issues, and, in conclusion, invited future writers to solve the difficulty of dividing the presumed early local printed specimens of 1855 on "star" paper, from those of 1854 executed by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

The Report of the Sub-Committee having been made to the London Society in December, 1893, and recently published,‡ a perusal of the very useful list of dated specimens appended to it shows how fully justified the undertaking was, and that the time was well spent upon it. I believe the Report will be found to have fully attained the objects aimed at, including the question as to whether the blue and white wove papers were used simultaneously, when a further number of dated specimens are incorporated therewith.

Contributions of high merit on these matters have not been wanting in the Philatelic Press of Australasia, and the New Zealand Philatelists, Messrs. A. T. Bate, H. J. Knowles, and others, have been prominent in the field of research. Mr. Knowles has also contributed a paper of considerable importance to the London Philatelic Press.§ Moreover, I am told that investigation is still in progress in the Colony, aided by some of the Government Departments.

Mr. Ernest G. Pilcher, Vice-President of the Philatelic Society of New Zealand, drew attention in the latter part of the year 1892|| to an account which had recently appeared in the New Zealand Press¶ of the official career of Mr. E. D. Butts, on his retirement from the position of Chief Postmaster at Dunedin, Otago. It was stated that in the early part of Mr. Butts' service, when a subordinate in the Chief Post-office at Invercargill, in the new Province of Southland (so created out of the Province of Otago in 1861), he remembered in that year the Chief Postmaster there, Captain Elles, giving directions for the one shilling stamps to be "cut across" during a lack of the sixpenny labels. The late Captain Elles was an old official, and probably he recollected the former practice of the Government in 1857-9, upon the establishment of the sixpenny rate per half ounce, *via* Southampton, to the United Kingdom. *The one shilling stamp was then divided vertically, and its face value thereby changed to sixpence*, pending the arrival of the plate of that value from London in 1859.

* *The London Philatelist*, July, 1893.

† *The London Philatelist*, August, 1893.

‡ *The London Philatelist*, October, 1894.

§ *The Stamp News*, February and March, 1893.

|| *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, Sydney, December, 1892.

¶ *The Public Service Journal*, New Zealand, October, 1892.

I selected and sent a few specimens of the earlier "provisional sixpence" to Mr. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., in June last, and he published in the following month some notes on the subject in *The Philatelic Record*.* In perusing the latter part of that paper, readers would do well to have before them at the same time *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, vol. vi., No. 5, page 64, and *The London Philatelist*, vol. ii., No. 14, page 50. Also to note that the Reference List given in the *Record* of the dated bisected one shilling stamps should read as follows :

Bleuté paper. Otago, New Zealand, 19th February, 1858 (two letters, franked by the halves of one and the same entire stamp).

Blue wove paper. Otago, New Zealand, 16th August, 1858 (two letters).

" " " 31st August, 1858.

" " " 19th October, 1858.

It recently occurred to me that perhaps further light might be thrown on matters still in doubt, concerning the first issues of postage stamps in New Zealand, by means of a search among records, both public and private, that are still extant in the United Kingdom.

I am myself a former collector, having commenced at college in the year 1860, and have had special opportunities, through friends in New Zealand, of inspecting a somewhat voluminous correspondence, extending over many years, the covers and stamps of which dated from the year 1855. I also resided for some time in the Colony.

Possessing too a predilection for the pursuit of what in the present day is called "original research," I set myself the task of gathering the following particulars relating to the Postal Service of New Zealand, which I now submit for the consideration, and I hope acceptance, of the Philatelic Society, London.

Before treating on the subject of the early postal rates levied in New Zealand, which to some extent appear to have influenced the authorities for the time being in their selection of the values for the first issue of postage stamps, a passing notice of the mode of government in the Colony previous to the year 1855 appears to me to be, in this particular instance, necessary.

But it would manifestly be impossible, and even unsuitable, in a short review of some of the interesting stamps of a Colony whose past history abounds with notable incidents, to give in detail an account of the latter, even if it were limited to a description of the postal service. A sketch, however, or outline, of events affecting the Government and the Postal Department before the issue of stamps will, I think, render the study of them later on less obscure. Theories too have been advanced relative to the early issues, which still await confirmation in consequence of the loss of the *postal records of the General Government*, which were on board the *White Swan*, bound for Wellington from Auckland, and wrecked in

* *The Philatelic Record*, July, 1894.

January, 1865; and official information has therefore been considerably diminished. For instance, during the first two or three years of the issue of stamps a use, numerically speaking, has been ascribed to the three values first made current in 1855, which could only have been attained by an older and more populous community, the Colony at that date having only reached its sixteenth year of fixed government.

It will be remembered also that in 1862, when the first English *Catalogue of British, Colonial, and Foreign Postage Stamps*, by Mr. Mount Brown, was published, *New Zealand* was soon disposed of by simply arranging the two sets he there describes, first the blue, and then the white wove paper issues, in all seven varieties. But now with new issues, and more particularly the discovery of older ones, the original source of the printing of them, varieties of paper and watermarks, and especially of distinct forms of perforation, we have a much more formidable array with which to cope, and trace in each particular instance to its source of origin. It is now strongly suspected, for example, that many varieties were *local*, that is, *provincial*, rather than proceeding from *Auckland*, the seat of the *General Government*, and yet withal were *official*, and therefore are admissible by Philatelists.

Perhaps some writer in the near future will take in hand, on behalf of New Zealand, a monograph such as we have received from the able pens of Dr. Andrew Houson and Mr. A. F. Basset-Hull, in their respective spheres of New South Wales* and Tasmania.†

"New Zealand and its Dependencies" consists of three islands and several smaller groups. The North, Middle (now called South), and Stewart Islands are little less in extent than Great Britain and Ireland, the total area being 104,471 square miles. They lie 1,200 miles to the south-east of Australia, and are about ten days' sail from Sydney.

The right of Great Britain to the islands of New Zealand was recognized by the treaty of Paris in 1814.

No formal occupation of the territory by the British Government took place, but in 1833 a resident official was sent from Sydney to the Bay of Islands with certain limited powers, and was subordinate to the Government of New South Wales. Kororareka, in the Bay, became the capital, and a post-office was established there, connected with the General Post-office at Sydney.

A scheme of colonization having been promulgated in London in 1839 by the "New Zealand Land Company," afterwards chartered as "The New Zealand Company," they deputed Colonel William Wakefield to visit the Colony. He selected Port Nicholson (Wellington) for a settlement, and the first colonists arrived there on the 22nd of January, 1840.

Pressure having been brought to bear on the Colonial Office in London by the New Zealand Company, preparations were made to establish a fully-organised government in the new Colony.

* *History of the Post-office, and of the issue of Postage Stamps, in New South Wales.* By ANDREW HOUSON, B.A., M.B., Ch. M., Sydney, 1890.

† *The Stamps of Tasmania.* By A. F. BASSET-HULL. Philatelic Society, London, 1890.

Captain William Hobson, R.N., was accredited as British Consul, and he reached the Bay of Islands in H.M.S. *Herald*, from Sydney, on the 29th of January, 1840, a week after the Port Nicholson settlers. Captain Hobson was accompanied by Lieut. Willoughby Shortland, first Colonial Secretary, and other officials.

The native chiefs, at the invitation of Captain Hobson, met him at the British Residency on the 5th of February, and after debate a cession of the Islands to H.M. the Queen, under certain conditions, was agreed upon, and ratified the next day by the treaty of Waitangi.

Captain Hobson, having in his possession a dormant commission, immediately assumed the office of Lieutenant-Governor.

The sovereignty of the Queen was proclaimed, after additional signatures had been obtained from the natives to the treaty of Waitangi, on the 21st of May, at Kororareka, the capital, subsequently named Russell.

The site of Auckland, on the shores of Waitemata Harbour, about 150 miles by sea south of the Bay of Islands, was purchased in September, 1840, and His Excellency the Governor removed the seat of government from Kororareka thence in January, 1841, to the great disappointment of Wellington.

The formation of the third settlement in the North Island was begun in March, 1841, namely, at New Plymouth, Taranaki, situated midway between Auckland and Wellington, on the west coast. These three areas of colonization occupied the whole of that island, and no further change occurred there till the year 1858.

By Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, dated November 16th, 1840 (and proclaimed, on the news reaching the Colony, May 3rd, 1841), the Islands of New Zealand were erected into a separate territory, and ceased to be a dependency of New South Wales. Captain Hobson became Governor and Commander-in-Chief, and was advised in the administration of affairs by an Executive, or Legislative Council, consisting of the Attorney-General, Colonial Secretary, and Colonial Treasurer, who were permanent officials appointed by the British Government, and held their offices during Her Majesty's pleasure. The fact that before the final arrangements were completed in 1856, after the introduction of Representative Government into New Zealand, these personages were only responsible to and removable by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, will, with regard to the Colonial Secretary of New Zealand and his control of the Postal Department, have to be taken into consideration when dealing with matters, as yet unexplained, regarding the early issues of the New Zealand stamps. The Colonial Secretary carried into effect the Governor's commands in postal affairs, but at the same time was the actual Executive of the department, there being at the period in question no Postmaster-General over the Colony. A few of the colonists, nominated by the Governor, completed the number of the Council.

New Zealand was thus ruled as a Crown Colony, till the granting of the Constitution by the Imperial Parliament.

The Postal affairs of New Zealand being no longer controlled by the Postmaster-General of New South Wales, Governor Hobson, on the 3rd of

May (the day of the proclamation of Independence), appointed Mr. Thomas Paton to be Postmaster at Auckland, the new capital. There were now six Post-offices in the Colony, all in the North Island; namely, Auckland, Kororarakea, Hokianga, Waimate, Kaipara, and Wellington.

Mr. William Connell received from the Governor the appointment of Postmaster-General on the 3rd of September.

Overland mails had been established to a limited extent, but the rates by such conveyance were high, at the close of 1841 one shilling per half ounce being charged on letters by the fortnightly mail between Wellington and Wanganui, a distance of fifty miles.

An important political division—Nelson, in the north of the South Island,—was established in October, 1841, and colonized at that date.

His Excellency the Governor, "*by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council*," in the second session, enacted the first "*Ordinance for regulating the conveyance and postage of letters*" on January 7th, 1842, to come into operation on the 1st of March. A uniform rate was fixed of 6d. per half ounce for letters transmitted from any post-office within the Colony, or to any place beyond the seas. Newspapers were conveyed free, also letters of half an ounce sent or received by soldiers, seamen, and marines.

While the Colonial Government was thus arranging its Postal Service, the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury had in the meantime prepared and executed a Warrant, dated August 31st, 1841—received in the Colony in May of the following year—by which it was enacted that the Post-office in New Zealand should be subject to the control of the Postmaster-General of Great Britain, and that the *internal rates of postage* were to be charged under the Imperial Laws.

The "*Postage Ordinance*" was, however, transmitted for Her Majesty's approval, and the Department conducted as hitherto, pending the signification of the Queen's pleasure.

By the death of His Excellency Governor Hobson, at Auckland, on the 10th of September, 1842, the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Willoughby Shortland, became Acting Governor.

In 1843 the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in his despatch to Mr. Shortland, the Acting Governor, stated that the "*Post-office Ordinance*" had been disallowed by Her Majesty. The reason given was, that "the Postmaster-General having undertaken the conduct of that service, no place is left for the operation of the Local enactment." This was notified to the public in the Colony, September 6th, 1843. The office of Colonial Postmaster-General ceased, and a "Deputy" was appointed in place thereof, while the Treasury Warrant was in force. The former post was not re-established till some time after the introduction of postage stamps.

The Treasury Warrant came into operation in the Colony on the last-mentioned date, and by it there was levied a progressive *Inland rate of postage*, according to the scale of *fourpence per half ounce* for letters, and a charge of *one penny* for newspapers.

Captain Robert Fitzroy, R.N. (afterwards Admiral), officiated as Governor from December 26th, 1843, to November, 1845. In his term of office a regular

postal communication was established overland between Auckland, New Plymouth, and Wellington, twice in each month, commencing in August, 1844. Mails could only be transmitted by sea as opportunities occurred.

Captain, afterwards Sir George, Grey, K.C.B., assumed office as Governor of New Zealand, in succession to Governor Fitzroy, November 18th, 1845.

To Governor Grey the Colony was indebted for the pacification of the natives, who had given Governor Fitzroy so much trouble; also for the many endowments he secured to the European population. But one of His Excellency's greatest works was undoubtedly the preparation of the Constitution Act for New Zealand, which he submitted for the approval of the Imperial Parliament.

The Postal Service of New Zealand also owes much to Sir George Grey's foresight, he having introduced many beneficial regulations, and prepared the way for the issue of postage stamps.

In March, 1848, the Scotch settlement of Otago was founded in the southern portion of the South Island, and was therefore the most distant community from Auckland, the seat of government. Two-thirds only of the South Island had at that date been appropriated for colonization.

In September, 1848, Her Majesty's Government having placed the Colonial Post-office Department under the control of the Local Government, Sir George Grey convened the ninth session of the Legislative Council, which passed a second "*Postage Ordinance*," on the 18th of November, abolishing all rates and shipmasters' gratuities previously paid on newspapers. And further, by Proclamation of December 18th His Excellency reduced the *inland postage on sea letters*, transmitted from the port of arrival to any other port in the Colony, from fourpence to one penny per half-ounce weight.

The central portion of the South Island, lying between Nelson in the north and Otago in the south, was colonized in December, 1850, receiving from its promoters the name of Canterbury.

The Islands of New Zealand were, therefore, at that period subdivided into six distinct settlements, and occupied throughout their entire extent, though thinly peopled.

(To be continued.)



The Philbrick Collection.

By GORDON SMITH.



TO the Philatelic student and historian a collection of the essays and proofs of Great Britain (which were prepared before the year 1840, and during the early years of postage stamps) must always possess an interest far surpassing those of any other country, from the fact that they illustrate the genesis and evolution of *all* postage stamps. And certainly on that account Mr. F. A. Philbrick held in high estimation the very interesting collection of items (if one may call them so for want of a better word) which he got together. Before, however, these are scattered to the four quarters of the globe, or lost sight of in other ways, it may not be without value to notice for future reference such pieces as are not mentioned, or cannot be specially identified with any to be found, in *The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain*, between pages 256 to 314. With the exception of one or two all mentioned below formed part of the collection.

1. An imitation of the design described in *P. and W.*,* § 5, p. 362, in a chocolate-brown colour. When looked into closely it is seen that the imitation of the engine-turning work is very poor.

2. Two specimens of No. 8, p. 263, neither of which is in black and red, as there stated, but in *deep blue and red*, and *green and red*, respectively.

3. A specimen of No. 6, p. 263, in blue and red, but before the words "Post Paid" and "Beaufort House," and the central tablet with "1d.," had been inscribed.

4. Specimens of No. 11, p. 264, in *brown* and in *rose*, on rose-coloured paper.

5. Specimens of No. 12, pp. 264, 265, on white card, rose, blue, green, and orange, all deep in colour; and also a colourless impression of the same.

6. No. 13, p. 265, in *brown*, on thick card, in addition to those mentioned in the text.

7. The Royal Arms, with supporters in an upright oval (23 × 19 mm.), on a background of solid colour, surrounded by a white line and an engine-turned band, 7 mm. wide, in two colours, of horseshoe shape, with curved ends, between which is a colourless tablet with the letters "N.M.R." in two colours, in script characters, the whole enclosed by a white line, and outside all by a coloured line. Specimens in *black and brown*, and in *blue and red*.

* *The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain*, by Frederick A. Philbrick and William A. S. Westoby. London, 1881.

8. The next seems to be related to Nos. 7, 8, and 9, on pages 280, 281, and is printed in black and in two colours, apparently on the "Congreve" principle, but when closely looked into they are seen to have been done by successive printings. First we have 1d., in white, on a black circle, nearly 6 mm. in diameter, surrounded by a red radiating pattern on white; this is enclosed in a black band ($2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide), on which is inscribed, in white, "POST OFFICE STAMP" in the upper semi-circle, and "to carry not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.", in small block type, in the lower. The above is situated in the middle of an oblong (about 34×26 mm.), of alternate blue and red sectors radiating from the centre, and covered by a white net, a band of which, 3 mm. wide, surrounds the centre piece, the remainder of the net in the oblong forming a horizontal pattern. The outer frame is in black (about 6 mm. wide), the corners having white stars, and the sides a pattern similar to the border of No. 12, p. 264. The whole is surrounded by a black line.

9. The proposal by *Allardice*, of Dundee, 14th October, 1839. A double letter sheet to be fastened when folded by a narrow strip of paper waved to each part, and across the strip, and each side on the sheet, a hand stamp, "Police Office Dundee" in a circle with a vase, in the centre. The vase falls on a piece of a two (pence?) bill stamp which has been pasted on the strip. The letter sheet is docketed "Enc. 122."

10. *G. Dickenson*, 1839. These are pen and ink designs at the lower part of an upright rectangle, in the upper part of which is a circular hole, possibly for the wax of the seal.

11. *F. Coffin*, 29th July, 1839. An oval engine-turned design occupies the upper part, and a circular hole the lower part of the rectangle.

12. *Pewtress*. Similar. A rectangle of blue paper embossed all over with a hexagonal pattern; on the lower part is drawn in fine pen and ink a crown in a circle, around which is the inscription, "The Royal Post-office Stamp. Three Half-pence." There is a diamond-shaped opening in the upper part.

13. Proposal by *J. C. Dakwig*, of Manchester, 10th June, 1840. On the left half of a large sheet of paper there is (a) a red seal with "POSTAGE—ONE PENNY" in an oval with a crown in the centre, impressed on green paper; (b) two oval embossed wafers, with a yellow metallic surface; the one on the left has only a fancy ornament, but that on the right has "D. & Co." in an interior oval; (c) plain oval wafers in green and rose papers. Both these and (b) have serrated eyes. "The oval somewhat larger" is written below.

14. This is very curious; the whole design being watermarked in the paper. It consists of a double letter sheet so arranged that when folded the design on the front (a) is headed "PREPAID LETTERS"; in the left top corner an upright oval with "POSTAGE" above, 2D. below, and the Queen's head in the centre to the right; in the right top corner a square with rounded corners in which is "1 oz.—2D.", in two lines in double-lined characters; below "LETTER OF THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE"; (b) at the back, on the top flap,

the Royal Arms between the words "BRITISH POSTAGE" in a curve, and *on the lower flap* a table of "RATES OF POSTAGE IF PAID IN ADVANCE." The rest of the sheet is covered with well-defined *watermarked* laid lines, with *unwatermarked* lines 23 mm. apart crossing the former perpendicularly. The paper is blue.

15. *Ricketts' Proposal*. A stamp 20 × 23 mm. in size, with the head of Christopher Columbus (?) in the centre to the left; "PROPOSED—STAMP" above and below respectively, frame at sides; the impression is in dull rose, and on the back of the stamp over the gum is printed in black "1d.," in a circle in an oblong-shaped figure. A second specimen has 3d. within the same design. Five other specimens of the same design, except that the inscription is changed to "RICKETTS—ONE PENNY," are printed on a stout grey vertically laid paper in deep rose (3), orange-brown (1), and chocolate (1). Within the frame at the four corners of each of these stamps are dark circular spots (about 2 mm. in diameter), which form a trial obliteration. Another design which belongs to this set consists of the Queen's head to the left, with "RICKETTS—ONE PENNY" above and below; this specimen is obliterated with a design of two parallel lines crossing at right angles a similar pair, and having circular dots in the outer angles.

16. *Perkins, Bacon & Co.* Four different designs (one in blue, the others in brown), with the Queen's Head to the left, "POSTAGE" above, and "ONE PENNY" below. These, as far as I am aware, have not hitherto been described, I have seen these arranged among a horizontal strip of six, all with different designs, and in both colours. I believe they were produced by a process which combined in some measure both line-engraving and typography, and were submitted by this firm some time between 1870 and 1880. One of these designs was utilized for the first Post Card of Grenada.

17. A diademed Head of the Queen to the right, on a ground of solid colour, enclosed in a rectangular frame, the sides of which are filled to two double-lined wavy lines—the corners are filled with Maltese Crosses. The design is well drawn, but coarse in appearance, it is apparently lithographed, and in colour is a deep Venetian-red. There is a vertical pair and a single; the latter has part of a trial obliteration.

18. Two designs made by hand, and dated Dec. 27th, 1889. Both are inscribed "Postage and Revenue One Penny." The Head, which is to the left, is similar to that of the currency of 1887. In one the Head is in green (in an oval), and the outer part in red; in the other the Head is in lilac (in an octagon), with figure 1d. at the sides, which, with the rest of the frame, are in red.

Passing on to trials and partly-completed designs of the stamps actually issued, there are very few items to be noted which have not already been put on record. But amongst the embossed stamps there are three, namely:

(a) An impression of the 2d. envelope stamp in *yellow*.

(b) A similar impression in pink, with three circular plug-holes in the upper curve of the oval, and three separate pieces of plain paper fitting into the holes.

(c) An impression of the 4d. envelope die, without the outer border, in sage-green.

Among the Essays and Proofs for embossed envelope stamps the following have to be added :

(1) *P. and W.*, p. 308 (c). The outer margin of colouring is removed, leaving only the oval design ; but the original extension is shown on the paper in a circular indent, marking the former limit of the colour. Impression in pale blue, on white and on fawn papers.

(2) p. 309 (e). An impression in black (as well as deep blue) on thick, soft card.

A large and varied assortment of official experimental trials of obliterating inks, illustrating attempts, more or less successful, for their removal here follows. The stamps principally employed for this purpose are the 1d., black, and the 2d., blue (without white lines), with a few specimens from the "Rainbow Series."

Amongst the sundries the following are of interest :

1. A sheet of pale-bluish paper, illustrative of a "peculiar ink and method of obliterating postage stamps, by a Thomas Walker, 88, Guildford Street, London, 17th September, 1860." The obliterations consist of rows of small pin-like punctures, the holes being inked as well ; the form of the obliteration is circular, and contains about 80 of these dots. The sheet is completely covered with these circles.

2. The proposal of Mr. E. Caton Rothwell, Soho Foundry, Preston, October, 1846, is for a cancellation or postmark formed of minute pin-prickings. "TODMORDEN" forms the upper semi-circle, with a double-lined semi-circle below. Oc. 12—1848, in two lines, occupies the interior.

3. Mr. Henry Tuck's suggestion takes the form of an envelope with the flap in *front*, on the right, the postage stamp sealing the enclosure. The principle is identical with that now employed in the current registration envelopes. Inside of the front is printed "No. 318, May 28th, 1840—Registered by HENRY TUCK, 138, Aldersgate Street, London," in 3 lines. Two sizes of envelopes.

4. Brown's proposal consists of a metal rivet, fastening together the side and lower flaps of an envelope, with a cap in the upper flap to fit over the rivet. A red paper seal, with the words "BROWN'S PATENT," surrounds the cap, probably indicating that sealing-wax is necessary to complete the fastening.

5. An embossing obliteration (if such it can be called), but without a name, is impressed on envelopes and letter sheets, in one case taking eight thicknesses of paper, and consists of a double ring, with "BIRMINGHAM" above, the month below, the date of the month and year occupying the centre ; the whole design is in relief. In the six specimens here found the dates are 5th January, 1849 ; 5th November, 1849 ; and 6th November, 1850.

6. A sheet of Dickenson paper (the size of a Mulready letter sheet), with three threads—a blue between two reds—as used in the Post-office, 10th November, 1840.

7. A sheet of rough handmade pale-bluish paper, in the centre of which are inserted six of the "Small Crown" watermarks.

8. A sheet of imitation "Dickenson" paper, said to have been made by a woman, and constructed by gumming two sheets of paper together, with silk threads laid between.

I do not think I have omitted any items of importance, but I have avoided all reference to those pieces which are fully described already. It must not, however, be imagined that the collection is lacking in these; in fact, I believe that for completeness it may challenge competition with any in the world. The exceptional opportunities which the learned collector had for gathering together unique examples he availed himself of to the utmost extent.

In conclusion I have to express my thanks to the firm who have acquired the collection, for the facilities they have given me to make the above notes.

The New Crusade.

Foundation of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.



WITH the greatest gratification we place before our readers the following Reports, to which we invite the most careful attention, as shewing the initiatory stages of a movement that is likely to be of incalculable moment in the annals of Philately. We have alluded at some length, elsewhere in this issue, to the general aspect of the question, and have but to express the hope that all our readers will aid in the New Crusade that is being initiated for the welfare—nay, even the existence—of Philately.

In addition to the two important meetings duly set forth in the following Official Reports, a further joint meeting of the two bodies took place on the 17th of this month, of a consultative nature.

"EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, W.C.

"10th May, 1895.

"DEAR SIR,—The Philatelic Society, London, having recently appointed a Committee to consider the best means for putting a stop to the great increase in the production of unnecessary and speculative stamps, a special meeting, to which representatives of the leading stamp importers and members of the Philatelic Press were invited, was held at the Society's rooms on Monday evening, the 6th May, 1895, for the consideration and discussion of the whole subject.

"I have been directed to forward to you the following report of the proceedings at such meeting.

Yours truly,

"HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,

"Hon. Sec. to the Committee."

There were present at the meeting the members of the Committee: Messrs. M. P. Castle (in the chair), R. Ehrenbach, J. A. Tilleard, E. J. Nankivell, and H. R. Oldfield, and in addition Messrs. Percy C. Bishop, Theodor Buhl, F. R. Ginn, M. Giwelb, H. Hilckes, W. H. Peckitt, C. J. Phillips, H. Stafford Smith, and D. W. Wood.

Numerous letters regretting the inability of the writers to be present at the meeting, and expressing sympathy with the movement, and promises of practical support, were read, including communications from Messrs. Butler Bros., of Oxford; Messrs. Clarke & Co., of Bushey; Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., of Ipswich; Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co., of Bath; and Mr. W. T. Wilson, of Birmingham.

The Chairman, having explained the object of the meeting, moved the following resolution:

"That this meeting is of opinion that the great increase in the production of speculative stamps, for sale to collectors, threatens to have a very serious effect on the collection of genuine postal issues throughout the world."

In the course of his remarks Mr. Castle called attention to the strong feeling on this subject which had been expressed, both in this country and abroad, and pointed out that the steps proposed to be taken were for the common good, the interests both of collectors and of dealers being identical so far as these issues were concerned.

Mr. C. J. Phillips, in seconding the resolution, referred to correspondence which had passed between Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., and various leading houses representing the chief European firms of dealers and importers. The following are short extracts from the replies received by Mr. Phillips, which were of considerable length, and showed a remarkable unanimity of opinion amongst the writers as to the desirability of some steps being taken to put an end to speculative and unnecessary issues of stamps.

Messrs. Whitfield King, of Ipswich, write: "We had already on our own initiative decided some time ago not to buy or sell any more speculative issues."

Mons. J. B. Moens, of Brussels, writes: "As regards the rubbish that comes in from all quarters, and that will be death of Philately, I share your opinion that they ought not to be sold."

Mr. Senf (of the firm of Senf Bros.), of Leipsic, writes: "I, too, share your doubts as to the future of Philately. I am not aware if you know that for many years past I have been of opinion that everything not unavoidably necessary should be rejected, and I have always borne this in mind when writing our postage stamp albums."

Mons. Maury, of Paris, writes: "I have always in my Journal warmly spoken against these speculative stamps. . . . It would be very useful to have the assent of Editors of Albums that they will not provide spaces for these stamps."

The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd., of New York, write: "We think the subject worthy of serious consideration, and we certainly feel inclined to join you in the matter."

Messrs. C. H. Mekeel & Co., of St. Louis, U.S.A., write: "The future of Philately is certainly menaced by the issues of stamps continually being prepared for the benefit of collectors. . . . If four or five of the leading firms agree on a certain policy with regard to stamps of this character, we shall be glad to co-operate with them."

After some further discussion the above resolution was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then submitted the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Buhl, and after some discussion was carried unanimously:

"That it is desirable to form a Representative Committee of the leading Dealers and Importers and of the Philatelic Press in Great Britain, to co-operate with the Committee of the London Philatelic Society, in considering the measures to be taken to prevent the issue of unnecessary stamps and surcharges, and to warn Collectors against purchasing them."

Various matters of detail in connection with this resolution were discussed, and ultimately postponed for consideration by the two Committees.

In response to questions, the Society's Committee explained the many obvious reasons which had actuated the members in suggesting the formation of separate Committees, representing the "trade" and "collectors," rather than a joint Committee, and it was also pointed out that consultations could be held when required, and that emergency sub-committees could be appointed, if necessary, to deal with pressing matters.

The following resolutions were then duly considered and unanimously agreed to:

"That it should be the duty of the two Committees to enquire into the status of all future issues, and to decide what shall be classed as unnecessary or speculative, and to arrange for public notice being given of their decision in the Philatelic Press,"

(Proposed by Mr. Castle and seconded by Mr. Nankivell.)

"That the two Committees shall use their utmost efforts to secure the exclusion from all Journals, Catalogues, and Albums of all unnecessary issues."

(Proposed by Mr. Castle and seconded by Mr. Peckitt.)

"That with regard to existing issues the two Committees shall consult, and public notice shall be given of such stamps as may be agreed to be unnecessary."

(Proposed by Mr. Castle and seconded by Mr. Giwelb.)

Mr. C. J. Phillips then intimated that all members of the trade invited to or attending that meeting, together with other well-known stamp dealers and importers, would be asked to meet at the offices of Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, on Friday, the 10th of May, at 3 p.m., to consider the appointment of a representative Committee of the trade.

The proceedings, which throughout had been most harmonious and enthusiastic, then terminated with a vote of thanks to the London Philatelic Society and its special Committee appointed to consider this subject, and to the Chairman and Hon. Secretary of such Committee.

A MEETING convened by the annexed circular was held at 391, Strand, London, on the 10th May, at 3 p.m.

"391, STRAND, W.C.,

"May 8, 1895.

"DEAR SIR,

"UNNECESSARY AND SPECULATIVE ISSUES.

"At a joint meeting of the Philatelic Society of London, and of representatives of the Trade, held last evening at Effingham House, Arundel Street, Strand, it was resolved :

"That all members of the Trade invited to or attending this meeting, together with other well-known Stamp Dealers, be asked to meet at 391, Strand, on Friday, May 10th, at 3 p.m., to appoint a Representative Committee of the Trade.'

"It is proposed that such a Committee of the Trade and Philatelic Press be formed to co-operate with the Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, whose duties it shall be to consider the measures to be taken to prevent the issue of unnecessary stamps and surcharges, and to warn collectors against purchasing them.

"I cordially invite you to attend at my Office, as above, at 3 p.m. (prompt to the minute) on Friday next, to appoint the said Committee, to elect a Secretary, and take what other steps may be considered necessary.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Yours very truly,

"CHAS. J. PHILLIPS."

The following were invited : Messrs. W. Brown, T. Buhl, Butler Bros., T. Birch, P. M. Bright, F. G. Bepler, D. Brosnan, P. Bishop, G. H. Callf, T. W. Cheveley, E. Clark, M. P. Castle, W. Cundy, A. W. Drohn, E. B. Evans, R. B. Earée, A. C. Emerson, Harold Frederick, F. R. Ginn, G. C. Ginn, M. Giwelb, G. H. Howe, Harry Hilckes, E. Healey, W. Hadlow, J. P. Jacoby, Whitfield King, W. Lincoln, W. Morley, A. Myerscough, C. Mortimer, W. H. Peckitt, C. J. Phillips, T. Ridpath, W. Rockliffe, A. Smith, Stafford Smith, Gordon Smith, J. W. Telfer, W. T. Wilson, Winch, W. A. S. Westoby, J. W. Wood, and H. R. Oldfield.

The following signed the attendance book : Messrs. M. P. Castle, Gordon Smith, W. H. Peckitt, Walter Morley, Harry Hilckes, Chas. J. Phillips, M. Giwelb, G. H. Howe, T. W. Wood, Edwin Clark, Henry J. Wildsmith, D. Field, Fred. R. Ginn, Rockliffe, Josephs, Percy C. Bishop, J. Scott Stokes, W. Hadlow, and E. B. Evans.

It was proposed by Mr. M. Giwelb, and seconded by Mr. Harry Hilckes, that Mr. Chas. J. Phillips should take the chair, and carried unanimously.

The circular convening the meeting was taken as read.

The Chairman briefly explained the objects of the meeting, and read replies to the circular, which he had sent out on the 27th March last, from Messrs. J. B. Moens, Richard Senf (of Senf Bros.), Arthur Maury, Scott Stamp and Coin Company, and C. H. Mekeel, who one and all promised active co-operation.

It was proposed by Mr. C. J. Phillips, and seconded by Mr. W. H. Peckitt, "That a Permanent Committee of leading Stamp Dealers and Philatelic

Journalists be formed to carry out the objects of the resolutions which were carried at the meeting held at the London Philatelic Society's rooms on the 6th inst." Carried unanimously.

The following are the aforesaid resolutions :

1. "That this meeting is of opinion that the great increase in the production of speculative stamps for sale to collectors threatens to have a very serious effect on the collection of genuine postal issues throughout the world."
2. "That it is desirable to form a Representative Committee of the leading dealers and importers, and of the Philatelic Press in Great Britain, to co-operate with the Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society in considering the measures to be taken to prevent the issue of unnecessary stamps and surcharges, and to warn collectors against purchasing them."
3. "That it shall be the duty of the two Committees to inquire into the status of all future issues, and to decide what shall be classed as unnecessary or speculative, and to arrange for public notice being given of their decision in the Philatelic Press."
4. "That the Committee shall use their utmost efforts to secure the exclusion from all catalogues, albums, and journals of all unnecessary issues."
5. "That with regard to existing issues the two Committees shall consult, and that public notice shall be given of such as may be unnecessary."

It was proposed by Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Rockliffe, "That the following (subject to their individual consent) form the Committee, with power to add to their number : Messrs. W. Brown, Butler Bros., P. M. Bright, F. G. Beppler, D. Brosnan, Edwin Clark, E. B. Evans, R. B. Earée, Harold Frederick, F. R. Ginn, M. Giwelb, Harry Hilckes, E. Healey, W. Hadlow, Whitfield King, W. Lincoln, A. Myerscough, W. H. Peckitt, C. J. Phillips, Alfred Smith, Stafford Smith, Gordon Smith, J. Scott Stokes, W. T. Wilson, Winch Bros., and W. A. S. Westoby." Carried unanimously.

After a lengthy discussion, it was resolved that the name should be "The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps."

Mr. Gordon Smith was unanimously elected Secretary.

Messrs. C. J. Phillips, F. R. Ginn, M. Giwelb, Harry Hilckes, J. Scott Stokes, and Gordon Smith were elected to form a Committee to draw up rules and bye-laws to regulate the Society.

Resolved : "That this meeting is of opinion that a joint Committee of the Philatelic Society and of the Trade is preferable to two Committees, and hopes that the Committee of the Philatelic Society will reconsider this point at their convenience."

Resolved : "That in furtherance of the resolutions of the 6th May, a joint meeting shall be held on Friday, the 17th May, at 4 p.m."

Mr. M. P. Castle, on behalf of the Philatelic Society, kindly placed their rooms at disposal for this purpose.

Vote of thanks to the Chair.

GORDON SMITH, *Secretary*.

N.B.—All communications to the Society should for the present be addressed—

THE SECRETARY,

Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps,

391, Strand, LONDON, W.C.

Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

PORTUGAL PROVISORIO.

MR. J. N. MARSDEN writes: "I notice you mentioned the errors of the 10 reis, 'Provisorios,' Portuguese, in the *London Philatelist*, and surmised that they were fiscally used. Such, however, was not the case.

"In this country newspapers, when their subscribers' subscriptions are due or have run out, send out a notice to this effect, franked with a 10 reis stamp; and when they (the notices) reach their destinations the postman himself writes on the notice the subscriber's reply, and in this state they are returned to the newspaper office. So the stamps on the printed papers you saw had, as it were, served a double postage."

INDIAN LETTER SHEETS.

OUR esteemed correspondent, Major Adam Smith, of Poona, writes us: "May I ask you how it is that Indian letter sheets ($\frac{1}{2}$ anna, blue) do not find favour with the dealers? For twelve years they were in use, yet the Scott Catalogue does not mention them!!! I have before me an unused sheet, No. 4. As this, so far as I know, has not been chronicled, will you kindly make a note hereof?"

These rather scarce letter sheets are duly chronicled in *Senf* and other leading catalogues, and we venture to think are as much appreciated by the trade and collectors as other envelopes—which, alas! is but faint praise!

THE 32 c. BANGKOK.

IN our Review in February last of Mr. Wm. Brown's excellent work on the Straits Settlement stamps, we expressed an absence of implicit confidence in the 32 cents of the first issue of the Straits (1867) surcharged with the letter "B" for Bangkok. The date assigned to the issue of this stamp is in *Evans and Scott* 1885, and in *Moens* 1882, and it had always seemed to our untutored mind somewhat incongruous that so many years after, a single variety should have been thus emitted, notwithstanding the very limited like use of the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents of the same series for other portions of the Malay States. Our correspondents, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., wrote that they were quite confident as to the *bonâ fides* of this stamp, and kindly undertook to procure official corroboration of their views. We have now

received the following letter, which may be taken as conclusive, the only regret being that it does not establish the date of issue, which, however, would seem more likely to have been in 1882 than after the second variety of 32 c.; and, in our opinion, Mr. Brown does wisely in placing it first on the list. Collectors should, however, not purchase this stamp without a critical examination of the surcharge.

"GENERAL POST-OFFICE, SINGAPORE,
"April 2nd, 1895.

"GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your letter of the 7th ultimo, I beg to inform you that a number of Indian 2 anna stamps overprinted with a Crown and '32 cents' for the Straits Settlements were afterwards overprinted with the letter 'B,' and issued at the Postal Agency at Bangkok.

"I am unable, however, to tell you when those stamps were first supplied to Bangkok, or how many were issued, as there were two different descriptions of that denomination in circulation at the same time.

"I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,
(Signed) "A. TROTTER,
"Acting Postmaster-General, Straits Settlements.

"MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING & Co., Ipswich."

Occasional Notes.

THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

THE announcement of the return of Lord Kingston from Algeria has appeared in the daily press, coupled with the intimation which will greatly rejoice all the readers of this journal, that the esteemed President of the London Philatelic Society has derived great benefit to his health from his extended sojourn in the East.

"A WARNING TO STAMP COLLECTORS."

UNDER the above title we have received, from an esteemed correspondent, a cutting from an American journal, which is calculated to awaken a lively alarm! Kissing has been lately denounced as tending to spread the mysterious microbe (but is still adopted as a custom among certain sections of the community!), and there is a fearsome danger—to the medical mind—in everything that we do, or say, or think. But the picture of a Philatelist with his hair rattling with fungus-pebbles is one that we shudderingly turn from contemplating, and draw the hair-line at any further delineation of the appalling spectacle:

"At the present day a man of any position in the medical world can scarcely be considered to have fully justified his existence till he has discovered a new disease, or, at least, some previously unsuspected source of danger to health. Dr. Unna, of Hamburg, may therefore be looked upon as doubly fortunate, for besides enriching nosology with more than one new disease, he has now made a considerable section

of the human race still further his debtors by showing them that their favourite 'hobby' has the added spice of danger required to make it completely delightful. Stamp collecting might at first sight appear to be a perfectly harmless mania, but here too, as in every other human pleasure or pursuit, it turns out that *latet anguis in herba*. There is a disgusting disease of the hair known as *pie*dra (stone), and hitherto considered to be peculiar to Columbia, in South America, where it is comparatively common among the fair sex. Men also suffer, though to a less extent, and chiefly in their beards. Black gritty particles form on the hair shafts; they are so hard that they rattle like pebbles (hence the name) when the comb is used. An unpleasant feature of the affection is a peculiar acid smell. The concretions have been found to consist of the closely-packed spores of a special fungus. The disease is supposed to be connected with a mucilaginous substance, which is greatly in favour with the native beauties of Columbia for anointing their dark tresses. Dr. Unna has satisfied himself that this interesting complaint can be conveyed to Europe by a somewhat unexpected channel. He has recently had under his care a professional brother, whose beard was unquestionably affected with *pie*dra. The patient had never been near Columbia, and the question was how could he have got the disease? It turned out, however, that he often received letters from Columbia, and he was in the habit of detaching the stamps by soaking them in water. Dr. Unna conjectures that he may have inoculated himself with the fungus which causes the disease, while fiddling with his beard with fingers still wet with the water in which he had soaked the stamps. The theory appears to involve the hypothesis that the 'mucilaginous substance,' which is suspected of breeding the disease, is used in Columbia for gumming stamps; but, at any rate, the case should be a warning to stamp collectors, as suggesting the possibility of the importation of the germs of various inoculable diseases from their native haunts."

Original gum will henceforth be tabooed. Philately will have to be classed as a dangerous calling; and we can only trust that the life insurance offices may not see the news!

A CALIFORNIAN FIND!

MR. HENRY LOVERIDGE writes from the Canadian-Australian Steamship Line, *R.M.S. Warrimoo*, off Vancouver, on April 9th, 1894: "I send you herewith two cuttings from a Honolulu paper, showing that even in the throes of revolution the good people who inhabit the Sandwich Islands can still take an interest in our hobby. Please make use of them if you deem them of any interest to your readers."

"Within the past week (March 26th) Philatelic circles have been greatly excited over the 'find' and sale in this city of one of the greatest stamp varieties, says a late issue of the *San Francisco Call*. It fell to the fortune of C. K. Sturtevant, of Oakland, manager for a large San Francisco real estate firm, to discover the rarity, and to dispose of it to H. J. Crocker, San Francisco's most prominent collector, for \$350."

It appears, however, that, as there is an alloy to all mundane happiness, some doubt as to the purity of this Californian gold find has been expressed; for we read further that the Hon. H. M. Whitney, who was

"Postmaster-General from 1850 to 1856, and from 1883 to 1886 (during the former period the stamp mentioned was issued), on being shown the printed illustration, said that 'if this purports to be an exact copy of the original envelope, there is room to doubt its genuineness. The date of the letter bearing the numeral 5 cent stamp is

not given ; but these stamps were seldom used after the introduction of the lithographed stamp of the same denomination, which I received from Boston during 1853.

“No date stamp like the one on the envelope (shown in the cut) was ever used in the early days of the postal service here. This represents a modern steel stamp ; whereas the old date stamps were made of wood, mortised for changing the date of the month and the year, and were much larger—say, the size of a twenty-dollar piece. I have now several of these old letters stamped with the first date stamps used. I think they were introduced about the year 1851 or '52.”

We trust, however, that the worthy Postmaster's suspicions may be groundless, and that Mr. Crocker is in possession of what is undoubtedly “a fine thing.” Our San Francisco friends are as keen in collecting as they are hospitable in entertaining ; and as it is the most likely place to find old Hawaiian, we should think there is a strong probability of Mr. Crocker's acquisition being “all that is to be desired.”

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S POCKET-BOOK.

MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING & CO. have produced a most excellent pocket-book, that, while being especially designed for the absolutely safe retention of the sundry and various stamps that the average Philatelist generally has stowed away on his person, also answers for all the ordinary uses of this daily companion to most men. It is made in flexible leather, and is about 6 inches high by 4 broad, folds very flat, and does not bulge the pockets. In addition to the ordinary division to embrace letters and memoranda there are no less than 36 separate small pockets, in a thrice-folding flap, which will enable a collector, if he be so minded, to be a peripatetic Philatelic Croesus ! A “natty” little pair of silver-plated tongs is included in the outfit. The outside cover is of morocco, and the whole thing handsomely finished, strong, and reasonable in price. Under these circumstances there should be a large demand for it among the collecting world—both here and on the Continent ; and we feel confident that the enterprise of Messrs. Whitfield King will reap the reward that so excellent a production deserves.

THE PHILATELIC PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

WE are desired to publish the following letter :

“143, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.,
“3rd May, 1895.

“DEAR SIR,—It having been suggested by some of the Members of the Association that the Committee should furnish them with some information as to the work which is being done, I am authorised by the Committee to point out that much of the work of the Association is necessarily of such a nature that it is not desirable to print an account of it, even in a private circular.

“At the same time, as a specimen of the work that is in hand, the Committee have much pleasure in communicating to Members that a most important matter, on which much labour and patience has been bestowed, has been brought to a successful and practical issue.

“For some considerable time past representations have been made to the

Authorities respecting the production and importation of forgeries into the United Kingdom. The negotiations have been conducted by the Solicitor to the Association (Mr. J. A. Tilleard), and have resulted in a material acknowledgment of the Association's work and influence.

"That this is a practical result will be seen from the following: The Association having learned that an attempt was being made to place on the English market a very large parcel of forgeries, numbering nearly 600,000, at once communicated with Somerset House. The Board of Inland Revenue used special means to trace the parcel in order to prevent the delivery, and arrangements were made for the detention of the stamps by the Customs if the importation was attempted. Having located the parcel in Germany, the Board communicated with the Berlin Authorities with a view to their co-operation, and the result is awaited with interest.

"The Association is to be congratulated on the fact that the Board of Inland Revenue are willing to give their powerful support to the Association in the work of putting a stop to the manufacture and sale of forgeries, and the communication with the German Officials will no doubt have a beneficial and far-reaching result.

"The Committee need hardly point out that this is a most important advance in the best interests of Philately, and the result in many respects is by far the most influential acknowledgment of the claims for protection from forgery, &c., that Philatelists have received from official sources.

"The negotiations have necessarily been prolonged, and of a confidential nature; the Committee therefore have not been in a position to report until the present time.

"In communicating the above the Committee appeal for your continued hearty support and interest, especially in the active participation in the work of the Association by attending the meetings as often as possible.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Yours faithfully,

"FREDK. R. GINN,

"Hon. Secretary."

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

BERMUDA.—Some sheets of the 1 shilling value, perf. $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, have escaped perforation between the first and second, and second and third rows from the bottom of sheet. There appears to have been a large quantity put into circulation. A strip of 3 fetched a ridiculously high price at auction lately.

Adhesive. 1 sh., green, perf. $14 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, imperf. horizontally.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—The current 2 pence Cape of Good Hope has received the surcharge "British—Bechuanaland" in two lines reading *downwards*. We trust this Colony will soon see the error of its way, and forego surcharges for a permanent "De La Rue" type similar to Zululand: we are certainly expecting it.

Adhesive. 2d., brown, black surcharge.

BRITISH HONDURAS.—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. 3 new stamps of 1 c., 5 c., and 10 c. values; the last two values are to take the place of the 6 c., blue, and 12 c., violet and green.

Adhesives. 1 c., green.
5 c., blue.
10 c., violet and green.

INDIA.—Major Adam Smith writes: "The nine pies carmine envelopes for the use of soldiers and sailors became obsolete on April 15th, the Government of India having withdrawn them, and increased the postage on the letters of soldiers and sailors to one anna from that date. Information of the 9 pies envelopes being overprinted 'one anna' just received. I am told that the half anna and one anna square envelopes have been overprinted 'On H M S' for use by Government officials, the reason for this being that these covers have not 'taken on' with the public, owing to a charge of two pies each for paper, and it being desirable to reduce stock."

The *Monthly Journal* has received information that the current $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, 1 anna, 2 annas, 4 annas, 8 annas, and 1 rupee stamps are to be surcharged "Postal Service," and will be used to represent the amount collected as *Customs duty* on foreign parcels. In this case they would certainly come under the category of *fiscals*. We withhold our chronicle for further information.

Envelopes. One anna, on 9 pies, black surcharge.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green, surcharge in black, On H M S.
1 anna, brown " " "

A valued correspondent informs us that the new stamps of the values of 2, 3, and 5 rupees may soon be expected to make their appearance. They were registered on the 19th and 25th of April, and the 2nd of May respectively, and we presume that supplies have been sent out to India. All the values are large upright rectangular stamps, printed in two colours—yellow-brown with rose-carmine centre for the 2 r., green and dark brown for the 3 r., and violet and bright ultramarine for the 5 r. We do not think that the best choice has been made from the numerous essays in various combinations of colour, submitted by Messrs. De la Rue and Co. for selection by the authorities.

The chief feature of the new stamps is a modern representation of the Queen-Empress, taken from the well-known "Jubilee" portrait by Angeli.

NATAL.—We regret that our block of the surcharge of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d. chronicled last month

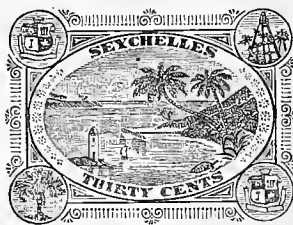
has not arrived up to the time of going to press, hence we shall hope to include it in next month's chronicle.

QUEENSLAND.—We have to chronicle the current 1d. label, printed on thick fiscal paper, with blue burélé across the back. The quantity issued of these appears to have been very small. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. labels have now been issued with profile of Queen on plain ground, also the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. wrapper.

Adhesives.
1d., orange-red, blue burélé at back.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, redrawn with plain background.
1d., scarlet " "

Wrapper.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green on buff, redrawn with plain background.

SEYCHELLES.—We append the types of the recently chronicled envelopes.



TRINIDAD.—The stamp on the 1 penny wrapper is now printed in carmine-vermilion (?) in place of carmine.

Wrapper. 1d., carmine-vermilion on buff.

ZULULAND.—We understand that all the values chronicled on page 147, vol. 3, are now actually in issue. We have seen the values up to 1/-, used. There appears to have been a good deal of speculation over the remainders of the old surcharged type, and some values are likely to be very scarce. We understand that owing to the arrival of the new type, the stock of the Natal 6 pence, surcharged in black, were all withdrawn from use.

EUROPE.

BAVARIA.—The 3 pfennig wrapper is now printed on yellow paper.

Wrapper. 3 pf., brown on yellow.

SERVIA.—A post card of similar type to the current adhesives is in issue.

Post Card. 5 para, blue on buff.

SPAIN.—*Le Timbre-Poste* informs us that the members of the Chamber of Deputies having received free postage, the current 15 c. has been printed in canary yellow for their use.

Adhesive. 15 c., canary yellow.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—From the same source we understand that the envelopes of 100 reis have the word "REIS" with letters very close together, also that the 40 reis card has undergone a slight change, the inscription, "*Neste lado só o enderço*," now being printed in small thick type.

Envelopes. 100 reis, red (two sizes).

Post Cards. 40 reis, red and ultramarine on white.
40 reis, red and blue on yellowish.

HAYTI.—A new 20 c. stamp is promised shortly, of current type.

Adhesive. 20 c., chocolate-brown.

MEXICO.—We illustrate the types of the recent issue; the 5 and 10 pesos are also of type 5. The following list of envelopes, post cards and wrappers, with stamps of the new type is taken from the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*. There are two varieties of each of the post cards, constituted by a



difference in the size of the words "TARJETA POSTALE" and "TARJETA POSTALE—CARTE—POSTALE" on the Interior and Postal Union Cards respectively. The wrappers have the word "FAJILLA" spelt with three L's, and one of the 3 c. post cards has the word "INTERIOR" spelt with a "Q" in place of O.

Adhesives. 5 Pesos, rose, type 5.
10 " blue "

Envelopes.

4 c., vermillion and rose on white wove, type 2.
5 c., ultramarine and rose on white wove, type 4.
10 c., rose-lilac and rose on white wove, type 3.

Wrappers. 1 c., dark green on manilla, type 1.
1 c., grey blue " "

Post Cards.

2 c., carmine, stamp carmine, on white, type 1; Interior.
3 c., carmine, stamp brown, on white, type 1; Interior.
2 c., blue-green, stamp carmine, on buff, type 1; Postal Union.
3 c., blue green, stamp brown, on buff, type 1; Postal Union.

Letter Cards.

4 c., blue, stamp vermillion on white, type 2, Urbano.
10 c., black, stamp rose-lilac on white, type 4 "

PERU.—The *Philatelic Journal of America* announces that the old "Llama" type of 1867 has been revived and issued in a new colour for a 20 c. stamp.

Adhesive. 20 c., blue.

UNITED STATES.—A slight alteration has been made in the current type, by which the triangles in the upper corners have a plain white frame, the lines which formerly ran through the frame having been erased. The 8 c. has appeared in new type; the colour is plum. The full set of newspaper stamps of new series are now current.

Adhesives. 2 c., carmine (variety).
8 c., plum.

Newspaper Stamps.

1 cent, black.	\$2, orange.
2 cents "	\$5, blue.
5 " "	\$10, green.
10 " "	\$20, slate.
25 " carmine.	\$50, carmine.
50 " pink.	\$100, purple.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

FERNANDO POO.—*Le Timbre-Poste* chronicles the 1 c. and 5 c. de peso with surcharge, "*Habilitado para correos 50 cent. pta.*"

Adhesives. 50 c. on 1 c. de peso, green, blue surcharge.
50 c. on 5 c. de peso, blue, blue "

FRENCH COLONIES.—The news that all the remainders of the stamps used for French Colonies previous to 1892 are to be destroyed sounds too good to be true. Perhaps the Parisians have heard a rumour of a speculative crusade forming in London!

PORTO RICO.—A new colour.

Adhesive. 3 c. de peso, blue-green.

TRANSVAAL.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a specimen of the 3 pence in the new type. We understand that the error in the coat of arms, by which the waggon has two shafts in place of a pole, has really been corrected. Also with reference to our communication from Mr. Nankivell last month, Mr. Beeman made an error in the stamp to be surcharged, which should be the Natal 6 pence.

Adhesive. 3 pence, violet.

Since writing the above we have received specimens of the 1d. and 1s., with shafts of waggon altered to a pole.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. DUKE ALFRED OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &c.

Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1894-95:

President—THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—R. PEARCE.

Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.

Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON.

R. EHRENBACH.

D. GARTH.

A. W. CHAMBERS.

E. B. EVANS.

T. WICKHAM JONES.

THE twentieth meeting of the season 1894-95 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 5th April, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

The members present comprised Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. D. Bacon, T. Wickham Jones, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, W. Silk, G. B. Routledge, E. L. Cator, H. R. Oldfield, E. J. Nankivell, T. Maycock, C. N. Biggs, and J. C. Potter.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the Bradford Philatelic Society, forwarding a copy of a resolution adopted by that Society, heartily endorsing the recent action of the Philatelic Society, London, in regard to the alarming increase in the manufacture and sale of speculative issues.

Mr. Castle then read a paper by Captain Norris Newman, entitled, "Notes on the Cape Stamps," dealing with the early history of the Post-office, and the various postal issues of the Colony, and giving some valuable information as to the position of the errors in the sheets of the 1d. and 4d. "woodblock" stamps.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Captain Norris Newman for his interesting and valuable paper.

THE twenty-first meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 26th April, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

The members in attendance were Messrs. E. D. Bacon, B. P. Rodd, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, W. Silk, F. Ransom, T. H. R. Crowle, J. G. Tolhurst, E. Lumley Cator, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce,

Gordon Smith, T. Maycock, John Potter, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Horace P. Hudleston and Mr. Brownlow D. Knox, both proposed by the Secretary and seconded by the Assistant Secretary; Mr. Heinrich Fraenkel, proposed by Dr. Kalckhoff and seconded by the Vice-President; and Mr. Robert J. Torrie, proposed by the Earl of Kingston and seconded by the Secretary, were elected members of the Society.

Mr. Bacon then read a paper entitled, "The Queen's Head," being an article taken from an old magazine printed in 1852, in which the methods employed at that date in the production of the stamps of Great Britain were fully explained. Amongst other interesting information contained in this early article, as a matter of Philatelic interest, was the statement that the die for the 1d. adhesive was engraved by Mr. Charles Heath, and not by Mr. Frederick Heath, who received the payment for the work.

On the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by the Secretary, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bacon, for bringing before the Society the interesting article which he had read, and it was proposed that it should be published, with Mr. Bacon's notes and remarks upon it, in the *London Philatelist*.

THE twenty-second meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 3rd May, 1895, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by Messrs. E. D. Bacon, R. Ehren-

bach, W. D. Beckton, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, W. Silk, E. Lumley Cator, G. F. Hynes, T. H. R. Crowle, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, T. Maycock, J. A. Tilleard, C. N. Biggs, and H. F. Lowe.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the British North Borneo Company in regard to the lithographed Labuan stamps, and the letter was referred for consideration to the Committee on "speculative issues."

Mr. Bacon showed an unused original copy of the United States (blue on rose) Carrier stamp, kindly sent by Mr. E. A. Holton, of Boston, for inspection, to assist in the detection of the reprints of the stamp in question.

The business of the evening consisted of the revision of the reference list of the stamps of Hamburg, which was completed.

THE twenty-third meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 10th May, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

The chair was occupied by the Vice-President, and there were also present Messrs. E. D. Bacon, C. N. Biggs, A. W. Chambers, Gordon Smith, W. Silk, R. Ehrenbach, C. J. Tyas, N. Newton, E. Lumley Cator, T. H. R. Crowle, G. J. Hynes, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, T. Maycock, R. Meyer, and J. A. Tilleard.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Plymouth Society, sending a circular in reference to the recent surcharges of Natal stamps, and a copy of a resolution of his Society on the subject; and the Secretary was desired to communicate with the Colonial Secretary, with a view to ascertain whether any action could be taken in the matter.

A letter from Mr. Hesketh, in reference to the question of "speculative issues," was also read, and was referred to the Committee appointed to deal with this subject.

Mr. Castle also read a letter from Mr. Koning, inviting the Society to join in a proposed international exhibition of stamps to be held in Amsterdam in September next. The Vice-President explained that he had replied that the Society, as such, would not be able to co-operate in the undertaking, but that some of the members might be willing to be exhibitors.

Mr. Cecil E. Pereira, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant-Secretary; and Mr. M. W. K. Connolly, proposed by Major Adamson and seconded by Mr. Tyas, were elected members of the Society.

The Treasurer having handed in his accounts for the past year, Mr. A. W. Chambers and Mr. A. B. Creeke, junr., were, upon the motion of Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mr. Maycock, appointed as auditors, to audit the accounts for presentation to the Society at the annual general meeting.

Mr. E. J. Nankivell then read a paper on the "Chilian First Issues," which dealt with the 5 and 10 cent. values issued between 1853 and 1865. The various printings and papers employed, with the several watermarks, and the cancellations found on the stamps were fully described, and for the convenience of members in following the paper, Mr. Nankivell kindly handed round copies of a reference list which he had prepared, containing also particulars of the numbers of stamps issued in each year, with *facsimiles* of the watermarks and cancellations to which reference was made.

After the discussion which followed upon the reading of the paper, a hearty vote of thanks was, upon the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach, accorded to Mr. Nankivell for his interesting contribution.

THE LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH.

Hon. Treasurer—EUGENE EGLEY, 88, Caledonian Road, Leeds.

SEVENTY-FIFTH meeting, held March 16th, 1895. Twelve members present, the President, and (during the delivery of the paper) Mr. John H. Thackrah, V.P., in the chair. Mr. Eugene Egley showed some used stamps of Poonch on pieces of the original envelopes.

The President then described the types 11 and 12 of the stamps of Victoria, his remarks being illustrated by his own collection, and those of Mr. Thackrah, Mr. Jefferson, and Mr. Egley.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. WILSON.*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*—G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

March 21st.—Display. Victoria.—Messrs. Wilson, Pimm, Johnson, and others showed very complete collections of this interesting country. A large number of rarities and minor varieties sustained the attention of the meeting until a late hour.

April 4th.—F. J. Crick, Esq. (Northampton), C. W. Boyton, Esq. (Great Yarmouth), were unanimously elected members.

Mr. W. Pimm then read an interesting paper on the stamps of Spain, illustrating it from his own collection. The Hon. Sec.

and others also shewed fairly complete collections of the same country.

April 18th.—Display. India and its Native States.—The President shewed almost every one of the rarities of type and surcharge of India, unused. The Hon. Sec. showed a general collection of the country and states, used and unused, with their entire envelopes and cards; also stamps used at Zanzibar, and the stamps of East Africa. Other members shewed collections of the same countries.

BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—OLIVER FIRTH.*Hon. Secretary*—W. H. SCOTT, 1, Piccadilly, Bradford.

THE first Annual Meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday evening, the 7th May. There were fourteen members present, the President, Mr. Oliver Firth, occupying the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Sec. gave a short report of the position and doings of the Society during the Session. He stated that the Society consisted of 23 members; that 8 meetings had been held, with an average attendance of members of just over 10; that papers had been read by Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Scott, the former on "The Stamps of Great Britain," and the latter on "Watermarks and Perforations," and that displays and discussions had taken place on

the stamps of Germany, Nova Scotia, and United States, and a discussion on Specialism and General Collecting. Mr. Atkinson, the Hon. Sec. of the Exchange Club, then gave a report of what had been done in that branch of the Society, after which Mr. Gray, the Hon. Treasurer, explained the financial position of the Society, which it appeared was in a very satisfactory condition. All the present officers of the Society were re-elected, with the exception of Mr. W. M. Gray as a Vice-President, he desiring to retire from that position, and Mr. Stamford being elected in his place.

The first meeting of the new session will be held on Tuesday, the 1st October, 1895.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—M. P. CASTLE.*Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*—A. DE WORMS, 27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

THE twelfth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, March 25th, at 7.45 p.m. Present: M. P. Castle, J. W. Gillespie, R. J. Thrupp, O. Pfenninger, C. R. Morse, E. E. Manwaring, R. J. Woodman, P. de Worms, W. T. Willett, A. de Worms, H. Stafford-Smith. The President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. Willett read some notes on the

stamps of Nevis, which he illustrated by his very fine collection of that country; almost all the different varieties were well represented by unused specimens. He also showed several reconstructed plates, both of the engraved and lithographed issues, besides some entire unused sheets. The President proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Willett, which was seconded by Mr. J. W. Gillespie, and passed.

[We are compelled to defer the reports of several Societies.]

Correspondence.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES WATER-MARKS, 1870-1887.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

SIR,—Your remarks on page 104 of *London Philatelist* are interesting to me, as being the first to point out in print the existence of the two varieties of wmk. They are also amusing as illustrating the "change of front" of the *Australian Philatelist*.

When, in 1893, it was mentioned that there were two distinct types of wmk. in what had previously been called the 1870 issue, the *Australian Philatelist* seemed surprised at the idea of anyone outside of Australia finding out anything not known to her own Philatelists.

Before I had seen these remarks I had, however, sent the paper to press (*Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser*, Feb., 1894), a copy of which I enclose. No one here knew anything about the varieties. We did not think it worth while to give the measurements, deeming it far better to give diagrams, for which I had types cut from my sketches. The measurements are somewhat misleading, as the junctions of the letters in types 1, 2, and 3 vary.

By special request, I sent copies of the paper to members of the Sydney Society, and, after amplification, to the Scott Stamp and Coin Co., as the basis of their list for the *Advertiser's Catalogue*, which is infinitely fuller than the paper of Mr. Wilson.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) G. JOHNSON, B.A.

[We have much pleasure in inserting the worthy Secretary of the Birmingham Society's letter, and of rendering unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. Mr. Johnson kindly sends us a copy of the *Philatelic Chronicle* for February, 1894, which gives a *précis* of the paper read by him before his Society, and which goes fully into the details of perforation and watermark, and, moreover, gives illustration of the two Types of the latter (with a sub-variety of one of them). We had not seen the article in question, or should have, of course, given the Columbus egg of discovery to our correspondent. In any case, Philately is the richer for the conscientious

study given to minor varieties from both sides of the world, and Mr. Johnson must be pleased to see other Philatelists following in his wake.—ED.]

HOLLAND AND HER COLONIES.

DEAR SIR,—Will you allow me space for a few words with reference to Mr. M. J. Myer's letter in your last issue? He writes authoritatively that "there is no perforation 14 in all the stamps of Holland and its colonies; he who pretends this has no good perforation gauge. Our highest perforation is 13½." Now half a millimetre is perhaps of no great importance either one way or the other, but a fact is a fact. Major Evans, in his *Catalogue for Collectors*, gives 14, Moens also in his catalogue; and as regards the stamps of Surinam, I am able to speak with certainty, having lately measured a great many of them, and the first issue is perforated 14 most decidedly, not 13½. The latter perforation was in use later; but, speaking for Surinam only, not very frequently. I may perhaps say that I use, among others, a Scott Stamp & Coin Co.'s gauge. Mr. Myers is of course right in advocating a good gauge, but something depends on the person using it. The reason Mr. Myers gives for only measuring the horizontal perforations, "because this should bring us too far," is not very convincing. Advanced Dutch collectors had better agree with English in saying that when perforations are stated at all, they should be given as they actually exist, and not incorrectly.

Yours faithfully,
GILBERT LOCKYER.

12, SOUTHAMPTON STREET,
May 8th, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—As the writer of the paper on the "Adhesive Stamps of Holland," published in your February number, I hope you will allow me to make a few remarks on the letters in the April issue, under the signatures of "A Correspondent," and Mr. M. J. Myer.

Regarding the contents of the first named, I was quite prepared to hear of new perforations having been found. The stamps

of Holland, especially the early issues, are rarely perforated absolutely "true to gauge"; consequently, stamps not perfectly dry, when measured, or the use of a gauge different from mine, would cause many variations, not mentioned in my lists.

I have always measured "length by breadth," because, professionally, that is the usual practice. There should, however, be a universally recognized rule, and it really matters but little which plan is adopted.

Turning to Mr. Myer's letter, I am in accord with Mr. Ehrenbach in feeling disappointed with the official publication of the Dutch Society on the stamps of their own country. I expected to find therein many more details about the adhesives than I was able to get together for my paper.

It was surely only reasonable to expect some mention to be made in a "standard" work of such an interesting fact as the number of dies used for the different values of the first issues. Yet, as far as I can make out, the work is entirely silent on the point, and we foreign Philatelists would have remained, as far as official information is concerned, in the same position as I found myself eighteen months ago, viz., trying to decide from the appearance of the stamps themselves, whether there had been three dies, or only one. It is not sufficient for Mr. Myer to say now, that if there had been three dies, it would have been notified in the official publication of his Society.

I cannot endorse Mr. Myer's statement that the perforation 14 does not exist, either in the stamps of Holland or those of its colonies. In my collections of these countries there are specimens, many unused, and with original gum, which undoubtedly measure 14 by my gauge, which is one supplied to me by Stanley Gibbons & Co., printed on stiff cardboard, off a carefully-engraved steel plate. May I ask Mr. Myer if all the members of the Committee are unanimous in thinking that perf. 14 does not exist?

As regards small varieties of perforation, I spent much time in endeavouring to reach finality, and at length came to the conclusion that neither the Dutch Government, nor their printers, ever could have possessed such an array of machines as would be necessitated if the varieties I had already found really existed.

I would suggest to Philatelists that when

making up lists of perforations of any country, they would save themselves much time and trouble, and obtain more reliable results, if they confined their attention to the measurement of *unused* stamps, having original gum.

There can be no question as to the genuineness of Mr. Castle's specimen of the extremely rare 15 cents, 3rd issue, perf. $10 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$; it would not be where it is, if there had been any reasonable doubt.

Mr. Myer refers to the tinted paper used for the first issues of Surinam and Curaçoa. I am inclined to think that on further examination he will find that similar paper was used at times for some of the issues of Holland and Netherlands India.

Apologizing for taking up so much of your space, I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

JAS. WM. GILLESPIE.

BRIGHTON, 6th May, 1895.

FASHIONABLE STAMPS.

DEAR SIR,—I have read with the utmost pleasure Mr. Ehrenbach's article on "Fashionable and Unfashionable Stamps."

There can be no doubt that for many years past most of those who have collected have given their attention to the stamps of those countries for which high prices are offered and asked. Stamps of the British Colonies have been, and still are—as might naturally be expected of British collectors—held in much esteem; thanks to the freedom from forgeries, also to the excellent productions of the printers.

Now I am one of those who can claim to have collected stamps in the "Sixties," though in a small way for some years, and have never given up for one year.

I am an individual who, if somewhat slow in making resolutions, is not likely to change his ideas to suit modern thoughts and ways. Years ago I set myself the task—I did not intend to write this word—I should have said "pleasure," for real pleasure it has been, to collect the postage stamps of all countries issued during 1840–1890. I could not, of course, have prophesied that the Philatelic world would become a receptacle for printer's waste paper. How glad am I that I am independent of this rubbish, and have kept to my resolve of 1890! the completion of a series begun before 1890, I admit. This as an explanation.

The cause that prompted me to write

upon these matters generally was your footnote to Mr. Ehrenbach's excellent article. "The latter" (Austria) "is practically a *terra incognita* in England, and will be found to be replete with the small and interesting varieties that constitute a *true Philatelist's delight*" (my italics here).

With regard to the first part of the paragraph I may say that I have given two or three years quiet study to the stamps of Austria and Austrian-Italy, having now some hundreds of varieties, and still not complete. I have many varieties that have not been mentioned in Philatelic catalogues and papers, so far as I know; and the pleasure that I have derived from hundreds of hours "amongst my Austrians" is incalculable. My only regret is that I am not in possession of official statistics, or I should publish my investigations in some form.

I do not know of one Austrian (Philatelically speaking) collector, and am often "looked down upon," ridiculed, pitied, for collecting such "stuff" as Austrian, Finland, Bavarian, Swedish, Norwegian, Turkish, Dutch, French, Belgian, etc., etc., stamps, and putting "on the shelf"—for the present—such *gems* as Sydney Views, Laureated Heads, Capes, Queensland, Canada, Newfoundland, etc.

The popular idea of the value of a stamp is, in my opinion, very delusive.

There are many stamps in my collection—taking a few of the countries just mentioned—which I value as highly as Sydney Views, etc. I do not refer to a monetary value, I leave that to any who may wish to increase their income by collecting stamps.

I know the difficulty I have had in getting fine specimens of some of them; and, if I disposed of them, it would be impossible for me to say where I could get similar copies. On the other hand, there are Sydney Views galore. All one has to do is to write a letter and enclose money to some one, and "they do the rest."

As to the second part of the paragraph quoted I agree *in toto*, if the last three words be made more emphatic.

I am afraid that I have already written too much; so wishing all success to collectors of stamps in general, and no country in particular, I remain, Sir,

Yours very truly,

F. A. BELLAMY, F.R.M.S.,
Hon. Treas. and Sec. Oxford P.S.

4, ST. JOHN'S ROAD, OXFORD,
May 12th, 1895.

[Our correspondent has assuredly *not* written too much. We consider that there is a wide field of interest awaiting Philatelists *who venture out of the beaten track*, and that Mr. Ehrenbach's paper, and the interest it has awakened, cannot be too much emphasised.—E.D.]

INDIAN SERVICE CARDS.

DEAR SIR,—I have three Indian Service Cards which differ from any mentioned by Major Smith.

A. 128 mm. × 81 mm.

Inscriptions, 1=32, 2=91, 3=66. Arms, 12½ mm. long, 6½ mm. high. Lion full face, unicorn looking towards crown, the centre of which is higher than the heads of the supporters. Tufts of tails turned outwards. It bears the word "To" only, just under the E of "East." Thin card, dirty white colour, and dated "16. 6. 90." Pale green letters, &c.

B. 128 mm. × 81 mm.

Inscriptions, 1=24, 2=88, 3=53. Arms, 15 mm. long, 7 mm. high, and resemble those of A, except that both animals are facing inwards. "To" under E, no other words, but two plain lines 42 mm. × 66 mm. long. Thick card, printed in medium blue-green on dirty white, darker than the last, and dated "24 Oct 93."

C. 122 mm. × 77 mm.

Inscriptions, 1=30, 2=73½, 3=53. Arms, 22 mm. long, 6 mm. high. Both animals looking back at their tails, which are turned towards the body at the tip. The scroll at foot is long, projecting beyond the supporters, and the crown is low. "To" under E, but slightly more to the right. "The Postmaster" and "of" about under the S. Thin card, printed in pale green on pale buff, dated "28. 2. 95."

I have never seen the Arms as described by Major Smith under Nos. 6 and 12, where the supporters appear to be turning their backs upon the Arms!

Yours truly,

ERNEST A. ELLIOTT.

May 9th, 1895.

P.S.—Permit me to endorse the suggestion of "A Subscriber" as to advertisements. If it is not deemed advisable to reject entirely the advertisements of such dealers, we might at least decline all that include such issues.

E. A. E.

The Market.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER.

Realisations at the sale on April 18, 19 :

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, small garter, 4d., rose on bluish, unused . . .	3	10	0
Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, blue, "Cross," four specimens on entire letter . . .	22	0	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ rappen . . .	4	4	0
Tuscany, 60 crazie, red . . .	8	12	6
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf. . .	10	0	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., vermilion on yellowish, and 2d., blue, early state of plates . . .	25	10	0
Natal, 1st issue, 1s., buff . . .	9	0	0
New Brunswick, 1s., mauve . . .	10	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet . . .	14	10	0
British Guiana, 1st issue, circular, 12 cents, black on thin blue paper, cut to shape . . .	6	0	0
Montserrat, CA, 4d., blue . . .	4	15	0
Nevis, 4d., rose on bluish, unused . . .	4	0	0
Peru, medio peso, rose . . .	10	0	0
N. S. W., "Sydney," 3d., green . . .	4	4	0
South Australia, 1d., green, imperf., horizontal strip of four . . .	4	0	0

At the sale on May 7, 8 :

Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf. . .	16	0	0
Ditto, 8d., brown, imperf. . .	13	0	0
Labuan, 6 c. on 16 c., red and blue (cut) . . .	10	10	0
Portuguese Indies, 1873, error, the red without value printed in centre, used on original . . .	4	4	0
Canada, $\frac{1}{2}$ d., rose, imperf., strip of six, on ribbed paper, on entire envelope . . .	9	0	0
Ditto, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, unused . . .	5	10	0
Newfoundland, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., carmine-ver- million . . .	14	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1d., brown, strip of three on envelope . . .	5	0	0
United States, 1869, 90 c., unused pair . . .	9	0	0
Ditto, 1893, set complete, unused . . .	5	10	0
Trinidad, Litho, 1d., red, pair . . .	3	17	6
Turks Islands, 4 on 1s., prune, and 4 on 1d., both unused . . .	4	12	6
Queensland, 1869-76, 10s., brown, unused, pair . . .	6	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 20s., rose . . .	4	0	0
Victoria, 1850, 2d., brown-lilac, with fine border, unused . . .	5	0	0
Victoria, 1862, 4d., rouletted, pair, used on original . . .	4	0	0
Western Australia, 1s., brown, rouletted . . .	4	0	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

At the 68th sale, held on April 30th, some good prices were realised. Moldavia 54 paras was knocked down at £15 10s., and some spirited biddings took place over a fine pair of St. Lucia, 1885, 1s., orange,

unused, which was finally sold at £7 15s. Other good lots were :

Oldenburg, 2nd issue, $\frac{1}{3}$ black on green, unused . . .	£	s.	d.
Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, blue, trinacria . . .	13	0	0
Bulgaria, the error, 5 stot, rose, on original envelope . . .	5	15	0
Moldavia, circular, 54 paras, on original envelope . . .	15	10	0
India, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, red (9 $\frac{1}{2}$ arches) unused . . .	7	5	0
St. Lucia, 1885, 1s., orange, unused, pair . . .	7	15	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

The first of a series of five sales, consisting of a superb stock of stamps (see advt. columns), was held on Saturday, May 11th. Among others the following prices were realised :

Pacific Steam Navigation Co., 1 rl., blue, and 2 rl., red on blue paper, unused . . .	2	15	0
Buenos Ayres, 5 pesos, orange, unused (cut) . . .	4	0	0
Natal, "Postage," with large capital, on 1s., green . . .	2	10	0
Pacific Steam Navigation Co., 1 rl., blue on blue . . .	4	4	0
N.S.W., Sydney, 3d., green, unused (fair) . . .	3	15	0
Dominican Republic, un rl., read- ing downwards, on yellow laid paper, unused . . .	3	12	6

MESSRS. PUTTICK AND SIMPSON.

We notice with pleasure that this, the oldest established firm of auctioneers, are giving increasing prominence to their *philatelic* sales department. A very successful two days' sale was conducted on May 15th and 16th, at which, among many other good stamps, the following were disposed of :

Naples, 50 grana, lake; unused . . .	4	7	6
Switzerland (<i>Basle</i>), 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ rap. . .	4	15	0
Montserrat, 4d., blue; CA . . .	3	10	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow . . .	2	12	0
Newfoundland, 6d., carmine-ver- million; cut close . . .	3	0	0
United States (1869), 90 c. . .	2	4	0
New Zealand, 1d., red on blue paper; unused . . .	3	0	0
Oldenburg, 2nd issue, 3 gr., black on yellow . . .	2	2	0
British Colombia, 1\$ on 3d., green; perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$. . .	2	12	6
Canada, 10d., blue; unused . . .	2	10	0
New Brunswick, 1s., mauve . . .	17	0	0
Antigua, 6d., green; no wmk.; im- perf.; unused . . .	6	5	0
New South Wales (Sydney), 1d.; with clouds; pair on original . . .	3	15	0
Queensland, 1st issue, 2d.; imperf. . .	7	10	0

THE
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IV.

JUNE, 1895.

No. 42.

The Recess.



NCE more has Father Time mowed down another season with his "unfailing punctuality and despatch," and we take note of the dispersal of many of our readers to their various summer holidays and pursuits. *Toujours perdrix* does not suit the gastronome, nor can one "do stamps all day and dream them all night"—to quote the expressive lament of a well-known Philatelist—without feeling that, charming and absorbing as is the pursuit, the return to it after a few months' interval produces a renewed and refreshed ardour in the Philatelic Antæus.

The events of the past few months are too fresh in the minds of collectors to demand more than a fleeting reference. The sad and premature deaths of H.I.H. the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch, Mr. Gilbert Harrison, and others, fill in the sombre colours of the picture. In the neutral tones may be noticed the enormously increased demand and prices paid for fine and unused specimens, the entry into the Philatelic ranks of a Croesus cohort, the marvellous activity of the auction marts, and the large accession both to the literature affecting stamps and the albums to contain them. The dispersal of several well-known collections has already been alluded to in these columns, and we have only to add that there are probably others to follow ere long, attracted, moth-like, to the golden flame!

The lightest and gayest colours in our picture are those to be noted in the *light* breaking in upon the adherents of stamp collecting, as to the necessity of exercising some "thought for the morrow." Under the ban of selfish action or isolation, the ominous shadow of Philatelic rubbish and speculative issues had gradually obscured the fair prospects of our pursuit and threatened it with a gloomy extinction. The inception and birth of the new Society—the forerunner, we trust, of the like in other lands—is

therefore the bright and hopeful feature of our Philatelic picture of the year. Incontestably it is the most important feature of the past season, *or of any other*; and it behoves all those concerned, with steadfast British bull-dog pluck and obstinacy—through evil and good report—to hold on to the great guiding principle, *i.e.*, the rejection or discouragement of every stamp that is not issued for postal requirements alone.

Remarks on the Early Postal Rates of New Zealand.

WITH NOTES ON THE FIRST ISSUED STAMPS.

By CHARLES H. MOTTRAM.

COMMUNICATED TO THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, JANUARY 11TH, 1895.

(Continued from page 129.)

The Postal Rates of 1851, which influenced the use of the One Penny, Twopence, and One Shilling values of the first issue of Stamps in 1855.



BY Proclamation, dated at Government House, Wellington, Dec. 31st, 1850, His Excellency Sir George Grey, K.C.B., repealed the previous rates of postage payable in the Colony of New Zealand for the transmission, receipt, or delivery of letters (namely, Fourpence per half ounce), and established a new *Colonial rate of postage*, to be charged and paid on all letters, according to the weight thereof, without reference to the distance or number of miles the same were to be conveyed, subject to the following scale, and to come into operation April 1st, 1851:

<i>Letters.</i>	Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ an oz. in weight.		Every $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or fractional part after the first.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
On all letters passing through any Post-office in the Colony of New Zealand, or transmitted by post therein	0	2	0	2
<i>Book Post.</i>	Not exceeding 4 oz. in weight.		Every 4 oz. or fractional part after the first.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Book packets	0	2	0	2

Newspapers Free.

"Printed Prices Current and Commercial Lists, not exceeding two ounces in weight, shall be forwarded through the post under the same regulations and privileges as Newspapers."

"Non-commissioned Officers, Captains' Stewards, Seamen, and Soldiers may send and receive letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight by the post, on

their own private concerns only, while they are employed on Her Majesty's service, at *the rate of one penny* for each letter."

"The postage on all letters and papers despatched from New Zealand to places beyond the seas shall be paid in this Colony."

The Proclamation further announced "that a system of *prepayment of letters by stamps* should be introduced into New Zealand" . . . "of such form as may be prescribed by the Local Government."

*The Mail Service between the United Kingdom and New Zealand
in 1855.*

Previous to the year 1857 the entire cost of conveying the New Zealand mails to and from the United Kingdom and Sydney, New South Wales, was borne by the British Government, at a charge of *sixpence* per half-ounce weight for letters, by "long sea-route Packet."

The New Zealand Government contracted with the owners of sailing ships and steamers for the conveyance of its English and other mails to and from Sydney to connect with the above service. For which, as the above *Colonial rate* shows, a progressive scale of *twopence* per half-ounce on letters was charged in New Zealand.

Therefore, according to that system, the postage paid in the Colony on single rate letters from New Zealand to the United Kingdom was *twopence*, and a further postage of *sixpence* was paid by the recipient of the letter, which defrayed the cost of ship postage and inland postage in the United Kingdom.

This regulation necessarily involved a collection upon the above scale of *twopence* per half-ounce on all correspondence *arriving* in the Colony from the United Kingdom, and also from the Australasian Colonies.

With regard to the latter, New Zealand had not agreed to the proposal of New South Wales in 1854 for the mutual exemption of postage on the delivery of prepaid letters passing between the two Colonies.

The Post-office in New Zealand would therefore, after the system of prepayment of postage by stamps had been adopted, derive much of its annual revenue from other sources.

The New Zealand Constitution.

After some temporary changes in the government of the Colony, in the early part of Sir George Grey's Governorship, the Imperial Parliament passed the Constitution Act on the 30th of June, 1852. By its provisions Representative Government was introduced into New Zealand.

The Act was proclaimed in the Colony on the 17th of January, 1853.

Prominent among the clauses of the new Bill was that which created the six settlements noticed in the early part of this paper, into Provinces with separate Legislatures. Their boundaries were defined on the 28th of February in the last-named year, and electoral districts proclaimed.

Each province had a single elected Chamber, and a Superintendent elected by the people. The order of precedence of the Superintendents of New Zealand was established by Her Majesty the Queen.

The Ordinances of the Provincial Councils were of course local, and required the assent of their Superintendents, but might afterwards be vetoed by the Governor.

The Imperial Act of 1852 prohibited the provinces from making any ordinance for regulating the post-offices. This was modified by an Act of the General Assembly of New Zealand in 1856, when Local Posts for the conveyance of mails within the respective provinces were placed under the management of their Superintendents and Councils, with power given to them to fix the postal rates. The Chief Post-offices in each province remained under the control of the General Government.

The overruling power in the Colony was the General Assembly, which consisted of two Chambers, a House of Representatives elected by the people, and a Legislative Council, whose members were nominated for life by the Queen. The Governor, with his Executive Council, completed the Government, as provided by the Constitution Act.

Six Colonies were thus established within the Islands of New Zealand, and they were regarded as such by the neighbouring Australasian Governments. The system was certainly unique among the Colonies of Great Britain. The physical characteristics of New Zealand, and the difficulty of communication in those days between the several settlements, which in most cases could only be reached by sea passage as opportunity offered, sufficiently accounted for this plan of government.

Conditions altered as the Colony progressed, and the Provincial Governments were abolished, by Act of the General Assembly, November 1st, 1876.

At the introduction of Postage Stamps in 1855 the designations of the six Provinces, with their capital towns, were as follows :

NORTH ISLAND.					
Province.		Capital.	Founded.		Population in 1853, exclusive of natives.
Auckland	...	Auckland	1840	...	9,774
Taranaki	...	New Plymouth	1841	...	1,746
Wellington	...	Wellington	1840	...	6,446
SOUTH ISLAND.					
Nelson	...	Nelson	1841	...	4,587
Canterbury	...	Christchurch	1850	...	3,300
		(Port Town, Lyttelton)			
Otago	...	Dunedin	1848	...	1,780
		(Port Town, Port Chalmers)			
					27,633

The General Government passed an Act in 1858, granting powers for the subdivision of provinces, and thereby the creation of new ones. The following districts availed themselves of its provisions :

Province.		Capital.	Seceded.		From.
Hawke Bay	...	Napier	1858	...	Wellington.
Marlborough	...	Blenheim	1859	...	Nelson.
Southland *	...	Invercargill	1861	...	Otago.

* Reunited to Otago, 1871.

The capitals were in nearly all cases the chief post towns of the Provinces, but Lyttelton, the port town of Christchurch, for a time appears to have occupied that position with respect to Canterbury, perhaps on account of Christchurch, the capital, being too remotely situated from the port, and Lyttelton, moreover, was the first town formed in that settlement in 1850.

The post towns throughout New Zealand in 1855 amounted in number to eighteen, of which six at least were Chief or General Post-offices. The remainder ranked as Sub-post towns.

In 1853 Sir George Grey applied to the Home Government for leave of absence to visit England. He had completed the work which he had planned. The provincial legislatures were in full operation, and the first meeting of the General Assembly would be held early in the following year. Many tributes were offered to His Excellency, from the Europeans and native race alike. He left New Zealand on the 31st of December, 1853.

Colonel R. H. Wynyard, C.B., Commander of the Troops, became Acting Governor on the departure of His Excellency Sir George Grey.

Colonel Wynyard's popularity had secured to him his election as first Superintendent of the Province of Auckland. His Excellency therefore held the three offices concurrently.

During His Excellency's Administration of the Government, the London printed specimens of 1854 of the New Zealand Stamps were received in the Colony, and issued to the public.

Colonel Wynyard opened the first session of the First General Assembly of the Colony on the 24th of May, 1854. With that event New Zealand ceased to be a Crown Colony, and began a career of self-government. Some important details, however, had still to be arranged.

The First Issued Stamps.

The second and seventh paragraphs of the Governor's Proclamation of December 31st, 1850, announcing the proposed issue to the public of postage stamps for the prepayment of letters, clearly remained dormant for about three years.

Definite instructions may have been received by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. early in 1854 to have engraved the plates of the One Penny, Twopence, and One Shilling values.

We learn from Mr. Bacon's first paper that they were despatched from London on the 22nd of September, 1854.

Mr. Bacon also states that a printing-press, ink, and six reams (about 3,000 sheets) of "star" watermarked paper were sent with the plates to the Colony; also a printing from each of the plates on "star" paper, amounting to—

12,000	One Penny Stamps	(50 sheets).
66,000	Two Penny „	(275 sheets).
8,000	One Shilling „	(33 sheets)
		and 80 stamps.

In the course of the year 1855 the Acting-Governor was advised by the Colonial Secretary (Mr. Andrew Sinclair) that the postage stamps for use in the Colony had been received. His Excellency thereupon commanded the republication of the Proclamation of December 31st, 1850. This was accordingly made on the 13th of July, and sheets of the three values were distributed among the provinces.

Mr. W. L. Howard, Postmaster at Lyttelton, Canterbury, publicly notified, on the 28th of August, that postage stamps could be supplied, from his office, in conformity with the Government instructions which he published.

THE PORTRAIT OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

BY A. E. CHALON, R.A.

Among all the old issues of British Colonial postage stamps produced by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Limited, I know of none which attract the notice of observers more than the handsome and beautifully-engraved design of the first type of New Zealand, ably described in *Oceania*, compiled and published by the Philatelic Society, London.

The skill of the engraver, the late William Humphrys (1794-1865), has here been bestowed upon the faithful reproduction in line of a veritable portrait of Her Majesty the Queen, painted by the late Alfred Edward Chalon, R.A. (1780-1860), portrait and subject painter.

Mr. A. E. Chalon was the first artist commissioned to paint the portrait of Queen Victoria, after Her Majesty's accession to the throne. The artist subsequently received the appointment of painter in water colours to the Queen.

A very fine mezzotint was produced of this portrait by the late Samuel Cousins, R.A., and published May 1st, 1839, by Alderman F. G. Moon, by Special Appointment Publisher in Ordinary to Her Majesty.

It is probable that Mr. Edward Henry Corbould, R.I., made a water-colour drawing of the design for the first New Zealand stamps for Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

The three values and their use by the public.

THE ONE PENNY, CARMINE-RED.

It will have been noticed in reading the table of rates in force at the period when postage stamps were first issued, that newspapers were sent free by post, and that no mention was made of a town delivery.

I may here say that it was the rule in New Zealand for all classes of the community to call personally, or send for their letters, at the various post-offices. Delivery windows were provided for that purpose in the construction of those buildings. Moreover no letter-carriers are mentioned in the published lists of post-office officials at that period.

The number of officials engaged in the Chief Post-office at Auckland in 1856 was as follows: Postmaster, chief clerk, second clerk, and one messenger. Wellington: Postmaster, and one clerk. In the remaining Chief offices of the provinces the Postmaster was the sole official; at Otago the Postmaster being also clerk to the Collector of Customs.

The Sub-Post-offices would be managed by storekeepers.

As every letter passing through any Post-office in New Zealand was charged, according to the rates, with twopence per half-ounce, therefore there was no provision for a penny post; and as no combination of the rates would admit of that value being used, the only motive for ordering the one penny stamp which suggests itself was the knowledge that it would be required by the non-commissioned officers and men of the naval and military forces.

There is a possibility, of course, that pairs of the one penny value may have been used when the twopence was not on hand. But at the present time it appears to be a very scarce stamp, no more than four or five specimens, so far as I can ascertain, being extant, out of the 12,000 labels supplied from London.

The Twopence. Blue.

This value, it will have been observed, was employed in the Colony for the single letter rate of twopence per half-ounce on all Inland, Interprovincial, Intercolonial, and British correspondence. From the 13th of July, 1855, to the 27th of March, 1857, envelopes and letter sheets bearing units and pairs of this denomination may be found. On and after the latter date, strips of three of the same value and the bisected one shilling can be looked for on letters to the United Kingdom at the rate of sixpence per half-ounce, *via* Southampton.

That not a few specimens, out of the 66,000 sent from London to the Colony, have survived is not surprising.

The One Shilling. Yellow-green.

The very small use to which this value could be applied from July, 1855, to March, 1857, may be attested by two facts.

First, that it would have required a letter, or packet charged at letter rate, to amount to three ounces in weight (six rates), and a book packet of one pound and a half in weight (also six rates), to carry a shilling stamp.

Secondly, I can quote dated specimens of the one shilling of the first issue on bleuté "star" paper in my possession, issued at the Chief Post-office, Dunedin, as late as February 23rd, 1858.

Therefore in the southernmost part of the Colony a portion of the 8,000 labels of this value, supplied by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., seem to have lasted and were current for several years.

The sixpenny value, had it been included in the first set, might have been of more use than the one shilling stamp.

The length of this paper prohibits me from entering into the question of the "local printing," but if this Society expresses a desire to hear further what information it may be in my power to give, I shall be pleased to do so, or on any other item of interest concerning the postage stamps of New Zealand.

I desire in conclusion to thank the members of the Philatelic Society, London, present this evening, for their courtesy in having listened to the reading of my first contributed paper.

Report of the Philatelic Society, London.

BY THE HONORARY SECRETARY.

READ AT THE MEETING ON FRIDAY, 24TH MAY, 1895.



FOLLOWING the example of those who have preceded me in the office of Honorary Secretary, it is my duty to submit a few remarks on the work and events of the period which has elapsed since our last general meeting.

It is with great regret that I have to commence with a note of sadness, by referring to the fact that, in the course of the year which ends to-day, we have lost by death three members whom we could ill afford to spare.

His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis Michaelovitch of Russia, although so young, had devoted himself heart and soul to the scientific pursuit of our hobby. Had he been spared, he would undoubtedly have taken the foremost position in Philately, and his untimely death is deplored not only by us, his fellow-members, but by Philatelists in every quarter of the globe.

The irreparable loss we have sustained in the death of Mr. Gilbert Harrison, is one which comes home to all of us. We all know his work; and the eminent services he has rendered to our Society, and to Philately, need no comment at my hands. That to the very end his thoughts were with us, and for us, is evidenced by the splendid legacy he has left us in the work on the United States envelopes, which is being so ably edited by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and in the researches into the stamps of Afghanistan, on which he was occupied when he was taken away.

The name of Mr. E. H. Watts, jun., the third on this sad list, did not come so prominently before us, but those of us who knew him personally will attest, that he was a true and earnest philatelist, and a worthy member of our brotherhood.

During the season, the following gentlemen have resigned their membership of the society; viz., Mr. J. S. Chapplelow, Mr. C. Colman, Mr. F. de Coppet, Mr. C. F. Ellis, Mr. McHenry England, Dr. D. M. Finlay, Mr. W. J. Hardy, Mr. J. Jacobs, Baron Carl Merck, Mr. G. T. Napier, Mr. B. E. Pemberton, Mr. L. Scarth, Dr. Heurtley Sankey, Mr. T. Vasmer, and Mr. W. T. Willett.

On the other hand, the number of additions to our ranks has been well maintained. There are two candidates to be ballotted for this evening, and assuming their election, there will have been added to our roll during the present season, thirty-three new members; viz., Mr. E. R. Ackerman, Mr. J. Andreini, Mr. F. W. Ayer, Sir H. C. Bunbury, Mrs. Isabel A. Curteis, Captain Chichester, Mr. T. H. R. Crowle, Mr. M. W. K. Connolly, Dr. Emilio Diena,

Mr. T. Dorman, Mr. F. R. Fraser, Mr. H. Fraenkel, Mr. H. P. Hudleston, Mr. J. F. Jackson, Mr. H. J. Knowles, Mr. Brownlow D. Knox, Mr. J. G. Langton, Mr. A. Lessing, Mr. J. N. A. Mostyn, Mr. L. Marshall, Mr. W. E. Muir, Mr. C. F. D. Marshall, Mr. C. Pereira, Mr. O. Portman Rubeck, Mr. T. A. Rance, Mr. F. N. Schiller, Mr. F. S. Scammell, Mr. J. Salter-Whiter, Mr. Wm. C. Stone, Mr. C. J. Tyas, Mr. R. J. Torrie, Mr. E. S. E. Van Weenen, and Mr. G. H. Worthington.

With these additions the number of members now amounts to 282.

Including the annual general meeting there have been twenty-four meetings of the Society during the season 1894-95; at sixteen of these general business has been taken, and the remaining eight have been devoted to the revision of the Society's Reference Lists. The attendance of members at the former has averaged sixteen, and, taking into consideration the very severe character of the past winter, and the enforced absence from time to time of many of our most regular attendants, owing to illness, chiefly due to the epidemic of influenza, from which so many have suffered, the average compares favourably with that of past years.

The subject of study has been the stamps of the German States, and, on turning to the attendance at the revision meetings, I regret to have to report a great falling off. The average only amounts to nine, and several of the meetings which were called had to be abandoned, owing to the small number of members present. It is no doubt difficult now-a-days, when most collectors are specialists, to arouse sufficient interest to secure a large attendance for the technical business of settling Reference Lists, and it will probably be well for the new council to take into consideration the desirability of some change being made in the conduct of this portion of the Society's work.

If time permits of the reading of the paper referred to in the notice of this evening's meeting, fifteen papers in all will have been read, at as many meetings; viz., by the President, on "The Renovation of Oxydised Stamps," and on "Impressions from an Unregistered Plate of the 1d. Great Britain, 1840"; by the Vice-President, on "Western Australian Stamps," and on "A Philatelic Rock Ahead"; by Mr. Bacon, on "Newfoundland Pence Issues," and "Early New Zealand Stamps," the latter compiled from notes sent by Mr. A. T. Bate; "The Queen's Head"; and also a paper communicated by Mr. C. H. Mottram, entitled, "Remarks on the early Postal Rates of New Zealand, with Notes on the First Issued Stamps." By Mr. Ransom, a paper was read on "The Suggested Methods for the Restoration of Colours to Postage Stamps"; by Mr. Ehrenbach, papers on "Fashion in Stamps," and "The Stamps of Norway"; by Capt. Norris Newman, on "The Cape Stamps"; by Mr. E. J. Nankivell, on "Chilian First Issues"; by Mr. T. Wickham-Jones, on "The Large Rectangular Stamps of Shanghai"; and by the Honorary Secretary, on "The De La Rue Series of the Stamps of India."

While congratulating the Society on the number and quality of the papers, and on the fact that members so far away as New Zealand and South Africa have, by their contributions, added to the enjoyment of our meetings, I would desire to ask for more assistance from members generally. I should like, if possible, to see the greater number of the papers to be read during

the coming season emanating from fresh sources, and with our large numbers there ought to be no difficulty in this respect. I am sure that those who have been hitherto so kind as to put into writing, for our edification, the results of their studies and investigations, will be the first to agree with me in my opinion that the new lines of thought and ideas, which would be opened out by efforts from members who have not yet contributed papers, could not fail to be of interest and advantage to the Society and its work. It is in the power of all to help, and I appeal to the general body of members, and especially to those whom we are not privileged to see at our deliberations, to help me to realize my wishes in regard to the papers to be read at the meetings of the next season.

In addition to the meetings of various committees, there have been thirteen meetings of the Council, at which numerous matters affecting members and the business of the Society have been considered and dealt with.

In the course of the season a special committee was appointed in general meeting, to consider and report on the system and question of the measurement of perforations, and this committee is still occupied with its deliberations.

Another special committee was recently appointed, for the consideration of the serious question of the increase in the production of speculative stamps, and the work entrusted to this committee is probably the most important matter which has been dealt with by the Society for a considerable period. A meeting was convened to which the principal members of the stamp importers, together with the editors of the leading Philatelic journals, were invited, for the purpose of considering the position in all its bearings, and, as the result of a subsequent meeting of the Trade and Press, to discuss the suggestions made by your committee, a society has been formed, having for its object the suppression of speculative stamps. The report of the committee will be presented to you this evening, and you will, I am sure, agree with me that our Society is to be congratulated on the fact that it has initiated a crusade against one of the greatest dangers which have ever threatened the pursuit to which we are devoted, and that it will be our duty and pleasure to assist the new society in the good work which lies before it, by every means in our power.

It is to be regretted that, owing to many unforeseen difficulties, the publication of the Society's work on the stamps of the British Colonies and possessions in Africa, has been unavoidably postponed, but I am pleased to be able to report that the work is now well in hand, and that members may hope to receive their copies of the first portion of the book within a very short time.

The accounts of the year will be considered at this meeting, and I think it will be found that there has been a satisfactory improvement in the financial position of the Society.

I may perhaps be allowed to express a hope that in the coming year some steps may be taken to improve and increase our library. Considering the position which the Society occupies in Philately, we should, if possible, possess a library fairly representative of the Philatelic literature of the world, and I trust that the new Council will take the matter in hand, and

will be able to find means to formulate some scheme whereby this desirable object may be attained.

In conclusion, I would wish to thank the members for the kindness and consideration shown to me, and for the assistance which has been so ungrudgingly given to me, and has so materially lightened my labours in carrying out the work of the Society, during this my first year of office as your Honorary Secretary.

J. A. TILLEARD, *Hon. Sec.*

24th May, 1895.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

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F. G. Bepler.	C. Geldard.	E. C. Luard.	Prince Boris Shahoffscoi.
E. Beveridge.	L. Gibb.	C. J. Lucas.	J. F. Sharples.
C. N. Biggs.	C. Gibbons.	T. W. Ludlow.	E. Shorthouse.
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G. Churcher.	G. Hodgson.	J. A. Nix.	R. J. Torrie.
H. R. G. Clarke.	J. F. Hofgaard.	Capt. C. L. Norris Newman.	C. J. Tyas.
H. Clotz.	A. L. Holman.	Capt. F. Northey.	Rev. W. N. Usher.
E. P. Collett.	Rev. W. H. Holman.	T. Notthafft.	I. Van Alphen.
F. O. Conant.	F. E. Horton.	H. R. Oldfield.	F. C. Van Duzer.
M. W. K. Connolly.	Dr. A. Honison.	Capt. St. G. Ord.	E. D. E. Van-Weenen, J.P.
Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart.	E. F. Hubbuck.	Lieut. B. Oxehufvud.	Dr. C. W. Viner.
Surgeon E. Cooper, R.N.	H. P. Hudleston.	J. V. Painter.	J. Walker.
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C. J. Daun.	Mrs. C. M. Jervis.	J. C. Potter.	W. E. Williams.
A. A. Davis.	J. F. Jones.	D. A. Quiggin.	A. H. Wilson.
H. F. Deane.	T. Wickham Jones.	Mrs. Raahange.	W. T. Wilson.
H. E. Deats.	W. R. Joynt.	Lieut. A. R. Raby, R.N.	R. Woodman.
Dr. E. Diena.	Dr. F. Kalkhoff.	The Earl of Ranfurly.	Baron de Worms.
T. P. Dorman.	F. H. Kay.	T. A. Rance.	A. de Worms.
Thos. Dorman.	Dr. J. N. Keynes.	F. Ransom.	P. de Worms.
A. G. Driver.	D. A. King.	A. W. Rawcliffe.	G. H. Worthington.
A. F. S. Duro.	The Earl of Kingston.	Rev. G. H. Raynor.	H. E. Wright

The New Crusade.



WE have much pleasure in giving due prominence to the first official notes issued by

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF
SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.,

10th June, 1895.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Society having taken into consideration the Stamps (or other postal matter) enumerated below, has decided and do declare the same to be speculative or unnecessary, and warns all whom it may concern not to deal in or collect the same.

1. PORTUGAL. "*Santo Antonio*" Centennial Stamps.
2. CHINESE LOCALS; that is to say, any issues for Chefoo, Chinkiang, Chinking, Hankow, Ichang, Kewkiang, Tientsin, or Wuhu appearing after this date, or for any other place in China of a like nature.
3. NORTH BORNEO and LABUAN. The 4, 10, 20, 30, and 40 cent. surcharged on 1 dollar, red, appear to be unnecessary.

By Order,

GORDON SMITH, *Secretary*.

At a meeting held on the 31st May, at 391, Strand, London. Present: Messrs. C. J. Phillips (in the chair), J. Scott Stokes, H. Stafford Smith, W. Hadlow, Harry Hilckes, Frederick R. Ginn, W. H. Peckitt, M. Giwelb, and Gordon Smith (Sec.).

The minutes of the preliminary meeting were read and confirmed.

The draft Statutes of the Society were finally approved.

The following were elected (subject to their acceptance) officers of the Society: *Vice-Presidents*: E. Stanley Gibbons, J. B. Moens. *Chairman of Committees*: C. J. Phillips. *Secretary*: Gordon Smith. *Treasurer*: Frederick R. Ginn. *Committee*: W. Brown, G. C. Butler (of Butler Bros.), Edwin Clark, E. B. Evans, R. B. Earée, Harold Frederic, M. Giwelb, H. Hilckes, W. Hadlow, Whitfield King, W. H. Peckitt, Alfred Smith, H. Stafford Smith, J. Scott Stokes, W. T. Wilson, and W. A. S. Westoby.

The following were elected as a *Sub-Committee* (to be called "The Executive Committee"): H. Hilckes, M. Giwelb, W. H. Peckitt, J. S. Stokes, W. Hadlow, F. R. Ginn, and Gordon Smith. Three to form a quorum.

GORDON SMITH, *Secretary*.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Collectionneur de Timbres Poste*, in its May issue, in the course of some interesting and generally appreciatory remarks on the new Society and its objects, has fallen into a little misunderstanding upon one or two points. It asks why the English (always *per fide*!) have inaugurated a separate society, and most erroneously traces the cause to the statements made in Mr. Castle's paper, "The Rock Ahead." The reason that doubtless influenced, in our personal opinion, the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps to confine their present action to this country was, that time was of the greatest consequence, an early start being, for obvious reasons, imperatively necessary. It was further felt that to work an International Society would be impossible, as such must include the two continents of Europe and America, not to mention the others. It was also hoped that each leading country — *i.e.* all the great powers — would also

institute similar societies, each of which would have greater weight in making representation both to officials and collectors in *their own country*. We are sure that as sure as Philately is international, so are the wishes of the founders of the New Crusade.

M. Maury falls out with the statistics in the "Rock Ahead," and quotes them (inaccurately) as tending to shew perfidious Albion's desire to screen her own Colonial issues, and attack those of their neighbours. To this reason—absurd as it is—our contemporary attributes the insular action of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps!

Mr. Castle certainly never intended to suggest in the remotest degree any partiality for any offender against good manners philatelic, whether from our own possessions or anywhere else. In order to arrive at an approximately definite statistical ground, it was necessary to group the new issues. They were thus divided into the three great streams of collecting :


	No. of stamps, &c., issued.
England and Colonies	99
Europe	108
America (omitting Seebeckese)	19
To these add all other countries of the world, excepting those following .	164
	390
French Colonies, Portuguese Colonies, Chinese, Seebecks	466

The absurdity of these figures was shewn by the fact that 81 millions (only a fraction White) issued 466 stamps, while nearly 1,400 million (a large proportion White) issued 390! Surely this evil is patent to our contemporary. Among the French and Portuguese Colonials there are, *certainly*, good, honest sheep, and among the European and English Colonials black ones. Our little war must be made without prejudice or favour, and we shall be as unrelenting in our attack on English rubbish—of which there has been plenty!—as on any other.

Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)


UNITED STATES.

N page 104 we inserted a note from Mr. W. Thorne as to imperforate varieties of the 1890 issue. Our friend now writes :

"From an article in the last number of the *London Philatelist*, I see you misunderstood my last letter. In it I said I had a block of four, each of the 4 and 5 c. (*cents*), and a block of 8, of the 2 c. (*cents*), 1890 issue, imperforate. In the *London Philatelist* you have given me credit with having these stamps in dollar instead of cent values, which is impossible, as the highest value of that issue was 90 cents, the dollar values not having been issued until 1893, when the Columbian stamps were issued."

QUEENSLAND.

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

HE change in type of the current Queensland stamps is accompanied with other complications, the principal being the temporary exhaustion of the Crown Q paper, and the adoption of two varieties to fill its place.

The first essay was made with the old "Beer Duty" paper—that with a large watermark of Crown over Q differing in shape from that used ordinarily for the postage stamps. The 1d. and 2d. were printed on this paper, but complaints arose as to its thickness and consequent defective adhesive powers. The 1d. was then printed on plain wove paper, and a *buréle* band, similar to that adopted in 1879, was lithographed in blue horizontally across the back of each row of stamps. A new supply of Crown Q paper then arriving, the 1d. plate, altered by the removal of the shading behind the profile, was put to press. This stamp will doubtless see no more changes for some time. The 1d. on *buréle* paper has a singular error, caused by a flaw in the plate, the PE of Penny being blurred over.

The plate of the 2d. stamp is not yet altered, but a change may shortly be looked for.

The Queensland authorities indignantly repudiate any suggestion of intentionally manufacturing varieties for the "benefit" of collectors.

By the way, this is a curious notion, but one that exists firmly implanted in the minds of most non-philatelic officials, that nothing pleases a collector more than the issue of a new stamp, or a perplexing variety of an existing type. The idea is possibly fostered by the eagerness with which some collectors will buy up anything new, *especially* if it has a savour of ephemeralness about it; but it is the speculative, not the collecting, instinct that moves the buyer in such case.

From north to south. When visiting Tasmania last month I saw a parcel of current 1d. post cards with an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp embossed thereon. These were made to the order of a continental firm, and were about to be posted separately, so as to be duly "used." I was informed that anything could be had in the way of impressed things, from a post card to a bandbox, as long as they were paid for. Revenue was wanted, and no reasonable request was refused. Only the line was *now* drawn at irregular varieties of colour; the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. die would only be used in yellow, the 1d. in carmine, and the 2d. in green, and no Platypus fiscals would be embossed on matter for transmission by post. A fearsome array of varieties has been made by philatelic ingenuity, in collusion with official complaisance, as witness the envelopes with $\frac{1}{2}$ d., orange, 1d., green, 1d., carmine, and 2d., green, in every possible combination as to position and colour. Well, the true philatelist may take comfort from the fact that the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. stamps have *never* been embossed on anything—envelope, wrapper, or card—for official sale at the stamp counter. All impressions have been made to order, and are even less admissible to a general collection than the "ringed" bands of English publishing firms, stamped to their own order.

I had the pleasure of inspecting a very pretty "find" of Sydney Views yesterday, a pleasure becoming rather rare nowadays. There were 90 of the 1d., Plate I., chiefly in pairs, with one strip of 3 and a few singles. The colour was perfect, and shade almost identical in each stamp; the postmarks were as light as if "cancelled to order," and an entire plate, excepting No. 15, could have been constructed from pairs. Altogether the sight was a beautiful one, and there is much comfort in the reflection that the majority have already been absorbed into Australian collections.

The New Zealand Government are advertising for designs for a new series of stamps from $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 5s. It is stipulated that they are to be typical of New Zealand scenery and character, and the work of residents in the Colony. I believe it is intended to have the dies engraved locally, which is a grievous mistake. When *will* Colonial Governments become convinced that even fair work cannot be effected in the Colonies?

THE "POSTAGE DUE" STAMPS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

BY N. S. W. AND CROWN.

PRIOR to 1891 the amount of postage payable on unpaid or insufficiently prepaid correspondence was marked on the article, and collected on delivery. With a view to establishing a better check, and to provide recipients with a voucher of payment, it was decided to introduce a series of adhesive stamps to denote postage due and paid on delivery.

The 1c. United States Postage Due stamp was taken as being of a design suitable for adaptation, and instructions were given to substitute a kangaroo and emu respectively for the letters U.S. in shields at sides, the words "penny," "pence," "shilling," or "shillings" for "one cent," and the letters N.S.W. were to be inserted at the foot of the stamp.

Ten wood engravings were prepared by Mr. A. Collingridge, of Sydney, for the Government Printer, the values being 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 1s., 5s., and 10s., and proofs printed in pale and warm brown, lake-brown, claret-lake, scarlet-lake, green, and grey were submitted for approval. It was decided to adopt the green colour uniformly for the series, and to omit the 1s. value, as it bore too close a resemblance to the 1d., and very little demand for such a value was anticipated.

The principle and the stamps were approved by the Executive Council on the 29th October, 1890, and the following regulations for the use of the stamps were published in the *Gazette*:

"GENERAL POST-OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"13th November, 1890.

"In accordance with the provisions of the 3rd section of the Postage Act, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the following amended regulations for the conduct and guidance of Postmasters, and others, being substituted for those numbered 41, 56, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66, 75, 105, 106, and 129 in the code of regulations, dated 20th February, and published in the Government *Gazette* of the 6th of March, 1886, such amended regulations to come into operation on and from the 1st of January next.

"DANIEL O'CONNOR.

"Every letter, packet, or newspaper liable to a charge for collection on delivery must be marked 'MORE TO PAY' on the address side, and the amount to be so collected must also be plainly stated.

"The Postmaster to whose office a letter or other article charged 'More to Pay' is addressed will, immediately on collection of the charge, affix to the cover thereof 'postage due' stamps equal in value to the amount so collected, and cancel same, either with his office stamp or in such other way as will prevent their being re-used.

"Any Postmaster receiving a registered article (unless it be officially registered) bearing insufficient postage, should make out a docket charged on the Postmaster at the office of mailing, and forward advice thereof to the Accountant, General Post-office, Sydney. The Postmaster to whom a docket is addressed must, immediately upon its receipt, affix 'postage due' stamps for the amount charged to the back thereof, cancel same by writing his name across the face of the stamps, and forward the docket by first post to the Accountant, General Post-office, Sydney.

"Each Postmaster shall keep on hand a supply of postage and postage due stamps of the different denominations, and in sufficient quantities to meet the requirements of his district . . .

"'Postage due' stamps should *never* be affixed to insufficiently prepaid articles at the *mailing* post-office, but must always be affixed at the *post-office of destination* upon the delivery of such articles to the respective addressees, and the receipt of the amount of postage due.

"Should the postage on a letter, packet, or newspaper be prepaid wholly or in part by means of 'postage due' stamps, such article must be treated as if no such stamps were affixed; *i.e.* if the article bear nothing but 'postage due' stamps, it must be treated as wholly unpaid; if the article be partly prepaid with 'postage due' stamps, only the value of the ordinary postage stamps should be recognised. Every such case of misuse of 'postage due' stamps should be reported promptly by the receiving Postmaster to the Secretary, General Post-office.

"'Postage due' stamps must be affixed upon the delivery of all matter upon which there is a charge, as well as upon the delivery of all matter which does not bear the correct amount of postage, and which the mailing Postmaster has failed to charge up, the receiving Postmaster, of course, *first* collecting the amount of postage due. Officials who shall affix 'postage due' stamps to mail matter before receiving the amount to be collected thereon must bear any loss which may be occasioned thereby.

"Ordinary postage stamps must not be placed upon the covers of articles in payment of postage due on matter not fully prepaid. 'Postage due' stamps only are to be used for that purpose, and Postmasters must be careful not to deliver any article until the amount due thereon has been collected.

"Should mail matter with postage to be collected thereon arrive at a post-office, and the Postmaster have no 'postage due' stamps on hand, it will be his duty to receive the amount due, and, when in receipt of 'postage due' stamps, to affix the amount so collected in stamps to paper, cancel, and forward same to the Accountant, General Post-office, Sydney, with an explanation of the matter.

"'On service' (O.S.) postage stamps may be accepted by Postmasters in payment of postage due on *Official* correspondence addressed to Government officers. Such stamps must, however, be affixed to the charged article, and be cancelled by the Postmaster in the usual way."

The notification of issue of the stamps appeared a month later, as follows:

"[10455]

"GENERAL POST-OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"13th December, 1890.

"NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.

"In accordance with the provisions of the 16th section of the Postage Act, His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the issue of a new series of Postage Stamps (a description of which is appended) to be used solely in connection with the new system of collecting

postage due on insufficiently prepaid and redirected correspondence, which is to come into operation on the 1st January next :

“DESCRIPTION OF NEW STAMPS.

“Large numeral on engine-turned ground in oval band, which contains above, ‘Postage Due,’ value below; kangaroo and emu in circles on shields at sides, with leaf projecting below; the whole surrounded by a neat border with ‘N.S.W.’ at bottom.

“Values—1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., and 8d., and 5s., 10s., and 20s. Colour, green.

“DANIEL O’CONNOR.”

Electro-plates were prepared at the Government Printing Office from the wood engravings, each containing 120 stamps in two panes of 60. The stamps were printed on the paper similar to that used for ordinary postage stamps, with watermark N.S.W. under a Crown. Perforations 10, 10+11, and 12+10 have been chronicled as being found on the 1d. and 2d.; the remaining values are perf. 10 only, but the other varieties will doubtless be found on all values eventually.

In the following year a new value was added to the series, and gazetted as follows :

“GENERAL POST-OFFICE, SYDNEY,

“1st February, 1892.

“In accordance with the provisions of the 16th section of the Postage Act, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to approve of the issue of a new ‘Postage Due’ Stamp of the value of One Half-penny, uniform with the existing series of ‘Postage Due’ Stamps.

“JOHN KIDD.”

Same printing, paper, &c. Perf. 10.

In 1893 the following notice appeared in the *Gazette* :

“[588]

GENERAL POST-OFFICE, SYDNEY,

“21st January, 1893.

“With a view to meet the desire of stamp collectors and others to obtain specimens of the ‘postage due’ stamps in use by this Department, and which are not at present sold to the public, being used only in connection with the payment of deficient postage, His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has, in accordance with the provisions of the 16th section of the Postage Act, been pleased to approve of such stamps being sold at this office, after being obliterated with the Sydney postmark, at 10s. per set.

“JOHN KIDD.”

These stamps are cancelled with the Sydney obliterator, consisting of the letters N.S.W. in three concentric ovals, placed well over the whole stamp; the gum was not removed, but the series was mounted on a sheet of card, each stamp being lightly affixed at the top.

Occasional Notes.

IMPORTANT TO MEMBERS OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE Society's Rooms at Effingham House will, by order of the House Committee, be closed from Thursday, July 18th, to Wednesday, August 14th, inclusive. Communications by letter may, however, be addressed there as usual.

MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING'S NEW ALBUMS.

WE have received from this old-established firm a series of albums of the most "up to date" kind, yclept The Interchangeable Stamp Albums. The binding of this series of Albums is on the well-known "Oriel" principle, by which, on the sliding of a bar, it is possible to at once release the back, so that any desired re-arrangement of leaves may be made, fresh leaves inserted, or damaged leaves replaced, etc., etc. The binding is absolutely secure, and each leaf has a double linen joint, that the leaves may lie flat when the book is open. There is an artistic border running round each leaf, with panel at top for inserting name of country, and the centre is printed with quadrillé lines of a very pale grey, to enable the collector to insert his specimens with accuracy. The Interchangeable Stamp Albums are a most convenient size, each leaf measuring, exclusive of joints, 11½ inches by 9 inches. The covers of all the series are of the same colour, dark green, handsomely ornamented in gilt. The cheaper edition is in half morocco, and the two more expensive ones in whole Russian leather. All of them open most easily, lie perfectly flat, and are, of course, as their title denotes, absolutely changeable in every leaf. The principal difference between the two higher priced volumes consists in the leaves, which are in one case flat, and in the other consist of "sunk mounts," exactly as in a framed watercolour drawing. There can be no doubt but that this latter system must preserve the stamps from all friction, and is therefore to be commended for specially delicate stamps, such as the early British Guianas, all embossed specimens, or for immaculate unused specialised issues. The only point to be observed by collectors herein is that when first mounted on these sunken leaves the stamps should be allowed to remain under gentle pressure for a short time, in order to lie flat, and then inserted in the album. We have only to add that these books are a very convenient size, are furnished with handsome clasp lock and key, and that they are in every way worthy of the attention of collectors and a credit to their publishers.

MESSRS. H. HILCKES AND CO.'S "DESIDERATUM" ALBUM.

THOSE who have during the past quarter of a century struggled with Sisyphean labour of the evolution of a perfect and *permanent* Stamp Album, will recognise the fact that in this new principle another distinctly progressive step has been taken, and that the hitherto winning competitor in the race—the Oriel binder system—has a rival that is to be by no means despised. The system adopted is as novel as ingenious; the upper edges of the leaves close to the back of the book are cut in a "V" shape, and at the lower half rest against a flush nickel band. They are held in their place by a flat nickel spring, which fits into the "V" shaped indentation above, and are immediately released by pressing the spring back. One obvious advantage is that any one leaf can be taken out without, as in the case of other systems, disturbing those that precede it. After a somewhat critical examination we could find no objection to this system, which seems simple, effectual, and in no wise cumbersome. The leaves, which are faintly quadrillé, lie perfectly flat, and the "binder" does not obtrude itself unduly. In general "get up" these books are excellent, and should reward their ingenious inventor by a wide sale.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

BRITISH BECHUANALAND.—Our friend of *Le Timbre-Poste* is behind the times. The 2d. surcharge on Cape of Good Hope, issued in 1891, reads upwards; the current one reads downwards, and pairs with the 1d. label issued with similar surcharges.

CEYLON.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. a *Reply* Letter Card, of 5 c. value, also a wrapper of current type, printed on coloured paper.

Letter Card. 5+5 c., chocolate on blue.
Wrapper. 2 c., mauve on brown.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.—The *Monthly Journal* reports that the 1d. label has been sent out printed in the earlier *claret* colour on CA paper, and that the orange-brown is now obsolete. We cannot see the *raison d'être* for this sudden change.

GIBRALTAR.—The same journal notices a curious error in the current 10 centimos stamp, by which the value is omitted. Are not these stamps all printed from one mother die, with the addition of the various values? This would probably account for two rows of ten stamps each having the value omitted, probably an oversight on the part of the printer, which was only discovered after the specimens had been taken off.

INDIA.—We are indebted to Mr. Wilmot Corfield for specimens of two very handsome wrappers, which we understand were issued on May 1st. A central oval contains a well-executed portrait of the Queen, surrounded by an upright rectangular frame, containing, in a curved tablet on plain ground, "INDIA POSTAGE" above, and the value below.

Wrappers. Half Anna, green on straw (wove).
One Anna, brown on straw (").

LAGOS.—Here is an illustration of the Registration Envelope chronicled on page 110.



NATAL.—We give illustrations of the two recently-issued provisionals. Papers, Philatelic and general, have been freely discoursing upon the merits of these two provisionals. That a stamp was necessary goes without saying; but that a lack of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. labels has been made the reason for an unheard-of speculation on the part of the Post-office officials is only too evident, and we hope that the Marquis of Ripon's attention has been called to what, unless satisfactorily cleared up, points to a scandal on the part of one of our best colonial Post-offices.



NEW SOUTH WALES.—Some interesting particulars as to the (current) Unpaid Letter stamps will be found under "Occasional Notes."

NEW ZEALAND.—We illustrate a new halfpenny label, a decided improvement on the newspaper stamp.

Adhesive. $\frac{1}{2}$ penny, black; wmk., N Z and star; perf. 10.



The following notice, emanating from the New Zealand Post-office Department, is interesting. Let us hope for a more representative series than the current very ordinary design, and a little attention as to printing and perforation could be tolerated.

PRIZES OF £150 AND £100 OFFERED FOR DESIGNS FOR POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS.

DESIGNS are invited for a new issue of POSTAGE and REVENUE STAMPS. For the series of Designs which may

be adjudged by the Postmaster-General to be the best there will be prizes of £150 and £100 respectively.

Specifications may be seen at the General Post-office, Wellington, or at any Chief Post-office.

General Post-office, W. GRAY, Secretary.
Wellington, 20th March, 1895.

SPECIFICATIONS OF DESIGNS FOR NEW ISSUE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

1. The design of each stamp must include a representation of characteristic or notable New Zealand scenery or *genre*, but may otherwise be of any pattern, provided the words "New Zealand Postage and Revenue" and the value in figures, or in figures and words, are plainly shown.

2. The designs must be of a size of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. \times $\frac{1}{2}$ in., or $\frac{3}{4}$ in. \times $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. (For an example of the larger size, see the Columbus issue of stamps of the United States; for the smaller, see the current New Zealand stamps.)

3. The designs proper must be coloured, but uncoloured drawings or enlargements may accompany them. Photographs of any kind are excluded.

4. The value of the stamps to be printed anew are:

1d.	3d.	6d.	2s.
2d.	4d.	8d.	5s.
2½d.	5d.	1s.	..

5. The designs are to be sent under cover of a pseudonym or a motto, accompanied by the name of the sender enclosed in a sealed envelope, bearing the same assumed title outside, addressed to "The Secretary, General Post-office, Wellington," not later than the 31st July next.

6. All designs, whether original or copies, submitted will become the property of the Postmaster-General.

7. The Postmaster-General reserves the right to select the best and second best designs from any series submitted, and to divide the prizes proportionately.

General Post-office, W. GRAY, Secretary.
20th March, 1895.

QUEENSLAND.—As far as we have been able to ascertain, the numbers printed of the late provisionals were 1,200,000 each of 1d. and 2d. labels on the thick paper, with large Q and Crown watermark, and 300,000 with the blue *buriné* on back; but we cannot vouch for the absolute accuracy of these numbers. We have the latter stamp with a distinct *double* vertical perforation. (See also "Occasional Notes": "Our Australian Letter.")

SIERRA LEONE.—On page 55 we alluded to a possible issue of six new values; but on writing for a supply, the *M. J.* receives official information that there is no issue of these values in contemplation, and we are not sorry.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—PERAK.—The 5 c. label has received the same surcharge as Selangor and Sungei Ujong, lately chronicled. We have a specimen from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive. 3 cents on 5 cents, black surcharge on carmine.

TURKS ISLANDS.—M. Moens chronicles the 4 pence printed in two colours, the name and value in blue, and the remainder in violet, watermark Cr. CA, perf. 14.

Adhesive. 4 pence, violet and blue.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—Additions to the *Unpaid* series:

Unpaid. 2 kr., brown and bistre.
 6 „ „
 7 „ „

FRANCE.—The *M. J.* has the 50 c. Unpaid stamp in new colour.

Unpaid. 50 c., lilac.

GREECE.—The 7½ + 7½ c. card has the date "95."

LUXEMBURG.—We illustrate the design of a new set of adhesives; the values are 5, and all are to be found with the surcharge S. P., perf. 12½.



1 c., grey-lilac.
 2 c., brown.
 4 c., olive-yellow.
 5 c., emerald-green.
 10 c., carmine.

SPAIN.—We lately received a wrapper, franked with two and a-half of the current 2 c. stamps.

AMERICA.

MEXICO.—The entire series of adhesives lately chronicled have received the overprint "official," in black. We illustrate the design of the 3 high values, block of which arrived too late for last month.



PERU.—We have seen a new 2 c. stamp, Arms in centre, "Republica," "Peruana" above, value in numerals, and words at base.

Adhesive. 2 c., slate; perf. 11½.

UNITED STATES.—The 1 cent and 2 cent stamps have appeared on watermarked paper. The watermark consists of the letters "U. S. P. S.," in double line capitals, 16 mm. high, one letter appearing on each stamp. The profile of President Garfield,

on the 5 c. envelope, has been re-engraved, with a considerable improvement.

Adhesives. 1 c., blue (watermarked).
 2 c., carmine (watermarked).

Envelope. 5 c., blue on white (re-engraved).

URUGUAY.—*Le T.-P.* informs us that there will shortly be a new issue of adhesives of 1, 2, 5, 7, 10, 20, 25, and 50 centimos, 1, 2, and 3 pesos; also that in October there is to be an issue of three entirely speculative adhesives, which, we trust, all our readers, being warned in time, will not purchase.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

CHINA.—Messrs. Whitfield King write, "Some sheets of the 3 candarin stamps were, by mistake, printed in greenish yellow, instead of yellow," a mistake which we set very limited faith in; but we are not surprised at anything which comes from this fertile source of the philatelic pestilence!

FERNANDO POO.—We have a new colour of the 10 c., "Baby" type, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.

Adhesive. 10 c. de peso, dull lake.

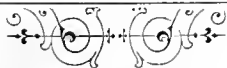
PERSIA.—Unless for fiscal purposes, we scarcely see the need for a 50 kran stamp, but we have received a specimen from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. Bad printing, perforation, and paper seem to be a characteristic of the various issues of this Eastern post-office, and the specimen before us fully bears out our description. From the same source we also have a 16 shahi stamped envelope on thin *wove* paper.

Adhesive. 50 kran, green and gold, perf. 11 × 11½.

Envelope. 16 shahi, pink on *white wove*.

PORTO RICO.—A variety of colour in the current 3 c. de peseta.

Adhesive. 3 c. de p., blue-green.

SAMOA.—We hesitate to announce the news of a fire at the Post-office, which burnt up all but a few of the shilling labels (!), and necessitated (?) the splitting of the above value to pay the postage on a letter to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. In a newspaper dating from Apia with a stirring account of the fire, our attention is attracted to an advertisement of the *Postmaster's* (!), offering complete sets of cancelled Samoans in exchange for "the root of *all* evil"!!

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. DUKE ALFRED OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &c.

Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1894-95:

President—THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—R. PEARCE.

Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.

Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON.

R. EHRENBACH.

D. GARTH.

A. W. CHAMBERS.

E. B. EVANS.

T. WICKHAM JONES.

THE attention of members is drawn to the notice in "Occasional Notes" as to the

temporary closing of the Society's Rooms during the Secretary's absence.

THE twenty-fourth meeting of the season 1894-95, being the annual general meeting, was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 24th May, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

The following members were in attendance, viz., Messrs. M. P. Castle, C. N. Biggs, A. W. Chambers, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, G. Smith, W. Silk, F. E. Horton, T. Wickham-Jones, E. L. Cator, A. A. Davis, C. F. D. Marshall, G. J. Hynes, H. R. Oldfield, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, T. Maycock, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter from the Secretary of the British North Borneo Company, with specimens of the new issue prepared to meet the change in the currency, was read, and directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

The receipt from Mr. Mattos of a descriptive catalogue of Portuguese stamps, by Mr. T. Ramos, was also directed to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

The Secretary then presented his report on the work of the Society for the past year, and after some discussion, on the motion of Mr. Nankivell, seconded by Mr. Oldfield, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Tilleard for his report, which was directed to be published in the *London Philatelist*.

The annual balance-sheet and accounts of the Society were then read and explained by Mr. Chambers, as one of the auditors; and on the motion of Mr. Hynes, seconded by Mr. Davis, it was resolved that the accounts be received and adopted; and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Treasurer and

to the Auditors, Mr. Chambers and Mr. A. B. Creeke, junr., for their services.

Mr. Oldfield reported the steps which had been taken by the Committee appointed to consider the subject of "speculative issues," and explained what had passed at the interviews which the Committee had arranged with members of the trade and the Philatelic press, resulting in the formation of a Society, having for its object the suppression of unnecessary and speculative issues. After considerable discussion, in which many of the members present took part, it was moved by Mr. Wickham-Jones, seconded by Mr. Pearce, and resolved unanimously, "That this meeting has heard with great pleasure of the formation of a Society for the suppression of speculative stamps, and wishes every success to the new Society; and that the present Committee be continued for the ensuing year, with instructions to confer with and assist the new Society in their work in such manner as may be considered desirable."

The meeting next proceeded to the consideration of the constitution of the Council for the ensuing year, and the following members were elected to serve, viz., Lord Kingston (President), Mr. M. P. Castle (Vice-President), Mr. J. A. Tilleard (Secretary), Mr. R. Pearce (Assistant-Secretary), Mr. C. N. Biggs (Treasurer), Mr. T. Maycock (Librarian), and Messrs. E. D. Bacon, A. W. Chambers, R. Ehrenbach, E. B. Evans, D. Garth, and T. Wickham-Jones.

Owing to the time occupied by the foregoing business, the reading of Mr. R. Ehrenbach's paper, on the stamps of Norway, was unavoidably postponed until the next meeting.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL.

THE Philatelic Society of Bengal was constituted on the 19th February, 1894, and its seventeenth meeting took place in Calcutta on 17th April, 1895. The membership roll now contains the names of fifty-seven collectors. The Society was fortunate in securing as its first President Mr. G. J. Hynes, Deputy-Director-General of the Post-office of India, who resigned in the course of a few months on his retirement to England. The meeting-place of the members has hitherto been chiefly at the Adelphi Hotel. Negotiations are, however, in progress for the provision of more satisfactory headquarters, and it is hoped before long that the Society will be the possessor of permanent rooms of its own. It is proposed to form a Philatelic library for the use of members, to which publishers of Philatelic works are respectfully invited to contribute. Since the Society's formation all the meetings have been of an interesting character, the most notable being those at which papers have been read by Mr. C. F. Larmour on the "Stamps of Portuguese India," by Mr. G. J. Hynes on the "Indian issues of 1854 printed in India," and by Mr. C. F. Larmour on the "Stamps of New South Wales." The monthly official organ of the Society, *The Philatelic World*, published by Mr. B. Gordon Jones, and edited by Mr. C. F. Larmour and Mr. Wilmot Corfield, reached its tenth number in April, 1895, and is firmly established as a high-class Philatelic journal.

The Society's first public exhibition of postage stamps was held in the Fine Arts Annexe of the Imperial Museum, Chowringhee Road, on 26th and 27th December, 1894, and proved a decided success. Among the visitors were His Honour the Lieut.-Governor of Bengal and Lady Elliott, and H.H. the Maharajah of Kapurthala, and it is more than probable that it will prove to be the first of an annual series of similar exhibitions which will equally succeed in winning the admiration of both the Philatelic and non-Philatelic public in Calcutta and the East generally.

We append a complete list of officers and members of the Philatelic Society of Bengal on 18th April, 1895, after elimination of those whose membership has ceased owing to resignation and other causes.

President.—C. STEWART-WILSON, ESQ., C.S.
(*Deputy Director-General of the Post Office of India.*)

Vice-President.—ALFRED A. LYALL, ESQ.

Hon. Secretary.—E. BERTHOND, ESQ.,
1, Wood Street, Calcutta.

Major Anderson.	L. S. Mazza.
G. Lane Anderson.	M. Mazza.
R. Bignell.	D. F. Minghis.
W. M. Briggs.	Goodwin Norman.
W. W. Bryant.	Captain J. G. Olifent.
Major P. A. Buckland.	T. B. J. Overend.
G. G. Burnell.	M. Palomba.
Wilmot Corfield.	E. W. S. Russell.
J. Cornwall.	Miss Sandel.
E. A. Doran.	Dr. R. S. Sanders.
A. S. Gladstone.	J. O'B. Saunders.
E. Göhner.	A. Schauenburg.
Dr. E. Fowler Greenhill.	Walter Schenck.
Walter Gregory.	F. N. Schiller.
E. S. Gubbay.	A. Shrager.
H. Holmwood, c.s.	P. A. Simpson.
G. J. Hynes.	A. Simson.
J. Jackson.	F. Stiefelbagen.
Lieut. C. Kaye.	C. J. Stavridi.
R. D. Kedslie.	G. J. Stavridi.
P. J. Lancaster.	R. J. P. Thomas.
C. F. Larmour.	Captain Slade Thomson.
F. A. Larmour.	Hon. E. V. Westmacott,
J. H. Lewes.	c.s.
Lieut. T. H. Madden.	E. G. Stone Wigg.
C. D. Mangos.	A. Vonck.
M. Manasseh.	W. R. Yule.

Honorary Members.—Bombay Philatelic Society.

THE seventeenth meeting of the Society was held at the Adelphi Hotel, at 9.15 p.m., on Wednesday the 17th April, 1895. The Vice-President took the chair.

1. The undermentioned gentlemen were elected members of the Society: E. W. S. Russell, Esq., proposed by Wilmot Corfield, Esq., seconded by J. H. Lewes, Esq.; R. J. P. Thomas, Esq., proposed by the Vice-President, seconded by the Hon. Secretary.

2. Mr. C. F. Larmour read a paper on the stamps of New South Wales, illustrated by his own collection of stamps of that country. The Vice-President also exhibited his collection of the same stamps.

With expressions of thanks to the reader of the paper and to the chair the meeting closed.

E. BERTHOND,
Hon. Secretary.

1, WOOD STREET, CALCUTTA.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. WILSON.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

May 2nd.—E. Slinger, Esq. (Grenada, West Indies), was unanimously elected a member.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. C. J. Phillips for presenting to the Society the minute book of the old Birmingham Philatelic Society, when he was hon. secretary. It was certainly received with as much enthusiasm as anything that has been presented to the Society, owing to its interest as a link with the past.

The meeting then resolved itself into an

extraordinary general meeting to draw up the programme for 1895-6, which was nearly completed. It was also unanimously resolved to issue an annual report, in neat book form, containing lists of members, rules, balance-sheet, résumé, programme, advertisements of members and the trade, and to deposit copies of the same with every society, English and foreign, which is mentioned in the official lists, or known to the Society.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—A. DE WORMS, 27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

THE thirteenth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, April 8th, at 7.45 p.m. Present: Messrs. W. T. Willett, R. J. Thrupp, O. Pfenninger, E. E. Manwaring, C. F. D. Marshall, P. de Worms, H. J. Gillespie, J. W. Gillespie, A. de Worms, S. Burrows, and one visitor—Mr. H. Hilckes. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. Willett took the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the following donations were made to the Society's library: A copy of Moens', Mekeels', and Scott's Catalogues, from the President, and two volumes of *Revue Philatelic Suisse*, from Mr. Pfenninger, which were accepted with best thanks.

Mr. Pfenninger read the second part of his paper on "The Stamps of Switzerland," dealing with all the Cantonal issues. He gave a lengthy account of the history of these stamps, and illustrated the principal peculiarities of the different designs by photographic enlargements, taken by him-

self. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Pfenninger for his very interesting paper.

THE fifteenth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, May 6th, at 7.45 p.m. Present—Messrs. J. W. Gillespie, C. R. Morse, O. Pfenninger, E. E. Manwaring, A. H. Thomas, P. de Worms, H. J. Gillespie, A. de Worms, S. Burrows, R. J. Thrupp. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. J. W. Gillespie took the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Thomas gave a short account of the stamps of Roumania, and exhibited his collection of the same, which contained, with exception of the first issue, specimens of all the principal varieties, including the errors in colour of the 1876 issue, the 5 bani, blue, and 5 bani, rose. A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Thomas for his interesting notes.

A. DE WORMS, *Hon. Sec.*

27, ADELAIDE CRESCENT, BRIGHTON.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT.

Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—A. LEVY.

THE twelfth ordinary meeting was held on March 27th, the President in the chair. Votes of thanks were passed to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons for a copy of their *Hand-book on Shanghai*, and to Mr. L'Estrange Ewen for his new *Catalogue of English Stamps*. Mrs. Hitchings and Mrs. Raahange (Hull) were elected members.

It was decided to postpone the exhibit of English stamps till May.

THE thirteenth ordinary meeting was held on April 10th, the President in the chair. The Hon. Secretary exhibited his collection of New South Wales, and led a discussion on these stamps, in which most of the members, who had also brought their collections to the meeting, joined. A vote of thanks was passed to the Hon. Secretary, who will continue the subject at the next meeting.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.*

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

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THE OFFICIAL INDIAN POST CARDS.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I would make a few remarks on the article written in the Society's journal (page 95) by Major Adam Smith, concerning the official post cards of India.

During my experience as personal assistant to the worthy Postmaster-General of Burma, an order was received from the directorate to effect that these cards, blank, and also with numerous inscriptions, each differing from the other according to the purpose for which the card was to be used, were to be printed in any local press in the province. Hence tenders were invited, and various classes of their cards submitted for approval, and when struck off and finally issued, varied in the most extraordinary degree, both in the nature of the printing, the card used, and the size, as also in the colour of the ink.

To illustrate what I mean. When, as one of the Divisional Superintendents, I wished to make a collection of these, I collected all the cards containing reminding notices to answered letters, and which consequently came from almost every, if not every, province in India, and other cards as they arrived; and after collecting about 200 varieties I gave it up, and burnt them, for it would have been as satisfactory to collect different kinds of paper on which stamps can be embossed by the British Post-office, as this sort of thing.

There is one variety of post card that was, however, introduced for a special purpose, and which is printed in black ink, and that is the card that is solely used for advising the return of empty mail bags to bag offices; this was issued some two years ago, and may, I think, be classed as a distinct variety.

Mr. E. J. Hynes, whose personal assistant I was for a long time, could, I think, give

you some far more detailed information about these cards.

While now engaged on the subject of stamps, I may mention two varieties of Indian Native States that I have not, as yet, seen chronicled. I cannot extract the second one from my book at present, but I enclose a specimen of the first I mention.

Service, ½ anna, post card of Nabha, with arms in black, *arms reversed*. (I have four specimens of these.)

2 anna, Registration Envelope of Chamba, with arms below stamp, no inscription on the stamp, but inscription on face of the envelope.

These came to me amongst a batch of stamps from the Director-General's office in Calcutta, and which were, I believe, sent under Mr. E. J. Hynes' instructions.

Yours faithfully,

F. W. FRASER.

JUNIOR CONSTITUTIONAL CLUB, PICCADILLY, W.
May 27th, 1895.

SPANISH FORGERIES.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly allow us, through the medium of your columns, to warn Philatelists against some extremely dangerous forgeries of the early stamps of Spain, which have just come under our notice?

The execution is almost faultless, and it is only by the closest comparison with genuine specimens that it is possible to detect the minute deviations in the forgeries.

The stamps are the 2, 6, and 10 reales of 1851, and the 2 and 6 reales of 1853, and they are being offered by a man named V. Gomez Novella, of Valencia.

The 2 reales of 1853 is the cleverest imitation of a genuine stamp that we have ever seen.

Yours faithfully,

CHEVELEY & CO.

63 & 64, CHANCERY LANE, LONDON, W.C.
May 23rd, 1895.

SPECULATIVE ISSUES, NATAL.

DEAR SIR,—My attention has been called to a paragraph in your last issue relating to the recent provisional issue in Natal. I do not remember the exact words of the paragraph in question, which stated that the issue was unnecessary. It is this that I wish to correct, as I have only just arrived from that colony, and being a Philatelist, I took no little interest in this particular issue.

The Natal Government, running completely out of halfpenny stamps, issued a notice authorising the various Postmasters to frank all letters, &c., requiring a halfpenny stamp, until a provisional issue was struck off. The "bust of Queen" came out, and the small issue of £500 was entirely bought up in four days. Franking was again resorted to, until the second provisional was issued. To the best of my knowledge the ordinary halfpenny are not yet in use. If you call this an unnecessary issue, there never was a necessary one, in my opinion. I do not wish to discount in any way your efforts, and those of the newly-formed Society, to prevent illegitimate issues.

The new Society have my heartiest sympathy in their work, which, if properly regulated, cannot but prove of the greatest service to Philatelists the world over.

I enclose herewith one of the franked envelopes for your inspection, which kindly return at your earliest convenience.

I enclose my card.

Yours faithfully,

COLONIAL PHILATELIST.

June 1st, 1895.

[With all due respect to our correspondent, we consider that the issue of these provisionals constitutes a scandal utterly unworthy of a British Colony. In these days of rapid communication there is no occasion for ever running out of stock of stamps. A Colonial Postmaster, in our opinion, is neglectful and censurable in—

1. Allowing any stamp to run out of stock.
 2. In creating any provisional stamps, except in large quantities and *all exactly similar*.
 3. In permitting the abnormal sale of any provisional issue.
- It is high time that our Colonial Office put a stop to these freaks upon *currency*; i.e., unused postage stamps.—ED.]

The Market.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

At the fifty-eight sale held on May 23rd and 24th, the following were among 613 lots disposed of. The prices attained being, as usual with the leading firm, very satisfactory to the vendors.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, octagonal, 6d., violet on yellowish, horizontal pair, unused	14	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, ditto, block of 4, unused	29	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 2/-, brown, unused pair	11	0	0
Ditto, ditto, I.R. official, 5/-, carmine	5	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 10/-, blue	6	5	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto £1 green	9	0	0
Hanover, large network, 1/10 thaler, unused	4	0	0
Oldenburg, First Issue, 1/15 thaler, rose, unused	4	15	0
Ditto, Second Issue, 1/3 thaler, black on green, unused	8	0	0
Wurtemberg, 1859, 18 kr., blue, unused	4	8	0
Naples, 50 grano, lake	8	4	0
Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red, unused	30	0	0
Ditto, 1853, 2 reales, red, unused	11	15	0
Ditto, Madrid, 3 cuartos, bronze	13	0	0
Ditto, 1854, 1 real, light blue	15	0	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2 1/2 rap. unused	5	0	0
Ditto, Winterthur, 2 1/2 rap, unused	7	0	0
Ceylon, First Issue, 6d., violet-brown on bluish, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, 8d., brown, imperf.	15	15	0
India, 4 a., red and blue, horizontal pair, showing full dividing lines	10	10	0
Labuan, Cr. C.A. sideways, 12 c., carmine	8	0	0
Mauritius, 1858, large fillet, 2d., blue	11	11	0
Canada, 1870, 1 c., red-brown on laid	3	10	0
Barbadoes, 1859, 6d., red, unused pair	4	10	0
Ditto, 1874, half a 1/-, violet used as 6d., on piece of original	5	7	6
British Guiana, Provisional 2 c., border of grapes, error PCSTAGE, No. 24 on plate	9	10	0

Nevis, First Issue, 4d., rose, unused	£	s.	d.
Ditto, Ditto, 6d., grey on bluish	4	15	0
P. S. N. Co., 1 real, blue	3	0	0
Queensland, First Issue, 6d., green, horizontal, pair on piece of original	5	0	0
Western Australia, 1/-, brown	4	17	6
	5	5	0

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER.

As we go to press, a priced catalogue of the 59th sale comes to hand. This was held on June 13th and 14th. Some good prices were obtained, notably £30 for the 5 p. and 10 p. Finland errors, for which a modest reserve of £8 was asked! It is not often so fine an entire collection as Lot 450 falls to one drop of the hammer, and by the description it deserved the sum of £210 realised for it. Other realisations were:

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 2d., blue, no lines, unused strip of 3, with gum	11	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1854, 6d., violet on yellowish, wmk. inverted, un- used, block of 4	26	0	0
Bremen, 7 grote, yellow, imperf.	5	0	0
Portugal, 1st issue, 100 reis, lilac, unused, original (poor)	5	0	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf., unused, small margins	8	10	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf.	10	5	0
Mauritius, Greek Border, 2d., blue, unused, horizontal pair	13	0	0
British Columbia, perf. 12½, 25 c., yellow, imperf. vertically	6	0	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, un- used	6	10	0
Barbados, 1d. on half 5/-	7	5	0
Nevis, litho, 1/-, light green, strip of 3, unused, and imperf. between	15	10	0
St. Vincent, 1d. on half of 6d., dark green, unused pair	13	0	0
Trinidad, 1858, litho, fine impres- sion, 1d., blue	11	0	0
Ditto, ditto, coarse impression, 1d., slate blue, pair	10	0	0
Virgin Islands, 1867, perf. 15, 6d., rose, unused	7	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, carmine and blk., single lined border, unused	3	12	6
Tolima, 1887, 2, 5, and 10 pesos	4	4	0
New South Wales, Sydney, Plate 1, 1d., red, unused	13	0	0
Ditto, 1853, 6d., grey, imperf., un- used, block of 4	11	0	0
New Zealand, 1872, 1d., brown, wmk. N.Z., pair	32	0	0
Western Australia, first issue, 6d., bronze	9	9	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

Sale of May 22nd.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, oblong £1 marone ; wmk. 3 crowns, vertical strip of 3 unused	9	0	0
Ditto, ditto 8d., brown unused	3	17	6
Natal, First Issue, two 1/-, buff and a 3d., rose, used together on piece of letter	7	5	0
British Guiana 1851, Ship in Shield, 1 c., magenta	4	0	0
Nevis, 6d., grey, litho	7	15	0
St. Lucia, 1/-, orange, C.A., perf. 14, with value surcharged, unused	3	7	6
United States, "Columbus," pair of \$4 used	2	2	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

Sale on May 17.

Hanover, 1½ sgr., large network, unused	6	0	0
Ditto, 10 gros. green, unused	3	10	0
Oldenburg, 1860, 1½ gros., moss- green, unused	4	4	0
Spain, 1853, 2 reales, scarlet	6	0	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf.	21	0	0
Ditto, 9d., black-brown, imperf.	3	10	0
Natal, 1/-, green, large capital	3	5	0
Dominica, C.A. perf. 14, 6d., orange, and 1/-, violet-rose, unused	3	15	0
Mexico, 3 c., eagle	4	10	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-ver- milion, unused	9	10	0
St. Vincent, star wmk., 4d., ultra- marine, unused	2	8	0
Ditto, C.A., perf. 12, 4d., blue, unused	3	0	0
Ditto, 4d., red-brown, ditto	3	0	0
St. Kitts, C.A. 6d., olive, unused	2	17	6
Western Australia, 6d., bronze, on piece of letter	10	0	0

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

"Nothing succeeds like success," and following close upon the last sale comes a priced catalogue of a sale on May 29th, containing the fine collection of Colonel Leckie. Messrs. Puttick and Simpson are becoming well-established with their *Philatelic* sale department, as the following quotations will justify.

	£	s.	d.
Malta, ½d., buff, imperf., unused	2	10	0
Canada, 10d., blue, unused (fair)	3	0	0
Ditto, 6d., grey lilac, unused	9	0	0
Ditto, 7½d., green, unused	6	6	0
Cape, wood block, error, 4d., red	32	0	0
Ceylon, perf., 1/9, green, unused	2	15	0
Ditto, 6d., blue paper, unused pair	5	5	0

	£	s.	d.
Mauritius, 1849, 2d., blue . . .	6	0	0
New Brunswick, 3d., red, unused .	3	3	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., yellow, unused .	20	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, mauve, unused .	36	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used . . .	13	0	0
Newfoundland, 2d., carmine-ver-			
million	3	15	0
Ditto, 6d., ditto	7	10	0
Ditto, 1/-, ditto	16	0	0
Tasmania, 1d., red, no wmk., un-			
used	2	10	0

BOGERT & DURBIN CO., NEW YORK, U.S.A.

We have received a priced catalogue of this Company's forty-fifth sale, held on May 11th last. The following are worthy of notice. (\$5=£1.)

	£	s.	d.
United States, Carrier stamp, New			
York, 2c., red, <i>used</i>	32	0	0
Ditto, ditto, Justice, 90c., unused .	6	12	0
Ditto, ditto, carrier stamp, Broad-			
way P.O., gold on black,			
original (creased).	7	0	0
Bolivar, 1879, 20c., green, error .	7	0	0
Nevis, 6d., green, unused	6	4	0

WE have received the catalogue of the first auction sale of stamps held by Mr. Howard K. Sanderson, of Lynn, U.S.A., on May 20th last. The tasteful production of the catalogue, and the abnormal prices realised, tend to shew, we should say, that this sale was a big success; the catalogue is certainly far and away finer than any we have seen in London, containing two full page photographic illustrations of the principal lots, printed in a pleasing shade of red. Reckoning \$5 as £1 we insert some of the best prices attained. The sale was held in Boston, U.S.A.

	£	s.	d.
United States, Providence, com-			
plete sheet of 11 5c., and 1 10c.,			
with full gum	14	8	0
United States, 1851, 10c., green,			
block of 4, unused	20	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1856, 30c., orange, a			
block of 56, <i>used</i> on one en-			
velope	56	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1869, 24c., inverted			
centre	28	0	0

	£	s.	d.
British Colombia, \$1, green, perf.			
14, unused	5	12	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, un-			
used	10	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, violet	21	16	0
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, violet, and 6d.			
yellow, used on one cover (an			
exceptionally fine pair)	41	0	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine-			
vermillion, unused	11	6	0
Nova Scotia, 1/-, violet	22	8	0
Montserrat, 4d., blue, CA. . . .	3	11	0
Nevis, 6d., lilac-grey, unused . .	3	4	0
Nevis, 1/-, yellow-green	3	12	0
Ditto, Litho, 4d., orange, block of			
4, unused	21	12	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., olive, unused .	8	2	0
St. Kitts, 1887, 6d., olive, block of			
6, unused	11	14	0
St. Lucia, 1850, wmk. star, 4d.,			
blue, unsevered, unused pair.			
(Scott, 1895. £4 16s.!)	12	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 6d., green, ditto,			
ditto (!)	15	0	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1/- unused .	10	12	0
Ditto, ditto, used	8	12	0
Virgin Islands, 1867-68, 6d., rose,			
perf. 15, unused	4	18	0
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, carmine and black,			
coloured border, complete			
unused sheet of 20	22	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, brown, complete			
unused sheet of 24	14	8	0
Ditto, ditto, 4d. on 1/-, complete			
unused sheet of 20	25	0	0
Cape of Good Hope, triangular,			
1d., carmine, block of 12,			
unused (!)	12	4	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 4d., blue, block			
of 4 unused (!)	7	4	0
Gambia, 1880, 1/-, green	1	1	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, block of 4			
unused	4	10	0
Hawaii, 1851-52, 13c., blue, used			
on piece of original	65	8	0
Western Australia, 2d., brown on			
red	3	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., bronze	2	19	0

We regret that space forbids further notice of some of the smaller lots, which fetched very interesting prices. A total of just £1000 was realised on 319 lots.



THE
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IV.

JULY, 1895.

No. 43.

The Issue of British Colonial Stamps.



FROM a source that is beyond cavil we have received an announcement, of possibly impending changes in the system of distribution of our British Colonial stamps, that is fraught with the highest importance to Philately. The substance of the information is as follows:—"It is rumoured that arrangements may be made by which the stamps of the various Crown Colonies will be on sale in England. In addition to the other advantages of this step, it would necessitate the complete control of the stamps being in the hands of the Crown Agents, who would naturally discourage unnecessary issues and surcharges."

In our last issue, alluding to the recent Natal surcharges, we took occasion to recite instances of the discretionary limits of Colonial postmasters, as regards provisional issues. To reiterate these—there seems but slight need, in these days of rapid communication, to run out of stock at all if a careful forecast of requirements is made; and in cases of a sudden and exceptional demand, there is no reason why, as in London, the letters should not be hand-stamped "Prepaid." Should any *real* public necessity arise for provisional issues, these should be made with great care; nor are the Colonial printers unable to put forth accurate and reliable work, that presents no errors of any sort or shape, while the most ordinary supervision on the part of the local post-office authorities should suffice to correct any vagaries of the "Printer's devil." No small lots should be surcharged, it being obvious that unless a large quantity were required, a prepaid handstamp, as previously suggested, should suffice for all kinds. Beyond this, no abnormal quantity should be delivered to any one purchaser, as was recently the case with the Natal stamps. The postmaster should, from local knowledge,

be in a position to determine what quantities are required for legitimate postal use and those bought up for speculative purposes.

The suggested arrangement of keeping stocks in London, would go far to assist in carrying out the foregoing regulations in many and obvious ways, and we trust, therefore, that it will be adopted by the Colonial Office. The only argument from a Philatelic aspect that can be urged against it is, that the stamps would not have been *issued* in the respective Colonies; but as they would be absolutely identical and, of course, equally available for franking, it is not a contention of any great weight. The most stringent restriction against any illegitimate issue of stamps will be welcomed by all classes of collectors, and we therefore hail the suggested innovation, not only for its intrinsic merit, but as a further evidence of the postal authorities' wish to discountenance all issues not strictly necessitated by public requirements.

The Registered Stamps of New South Wales.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

By M. P. CASTLE.



THE number of bi-coloured stamps amongst our Colonial issues has, until quite recent times, been very limited; and in the Australian group I can only call to mind the 5s., Victoria, *too late and registered*, and Fiji (5s.), besides those that form the subject of these notes. As will be seen later on, the combined colours were chosen in order to make them, as registration stamps, easily distinguishable to the eye. That they do readily attract attention can at once be conceded, while their beauty is much enhanced by the brilliant contrast of colouring. In these days of the development of Philatelic *cum* public printing, when the wants of collectors, as well as those of the public, are catered for in the issues of new stamps, I can but regret that this bi-coloured printing has not been introduced in some of our Colonial issues. The now superseded stamps of Western Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania would be in great demand with an outer frame of blue, and the centre in red.

Interesting as are these registration stamps, it is curious how little has been written about them. These notes were mainly made by me in arranging my own stamps some four or five years ago, but various circumstances have prevented my making use of them until the present time. The principal mention of these stamps is as follows:

Report of the Postmaster-General of New South Wales (Mr. T. Richards), 1867. The stamps are here described as having been engraved in fifty types on the plate, but of what metal the latter consisted is apparently not stated.

Handbook of the late E. L. Pemberton, 1878. The number of types is given as before, with the additional statement that the plate was made of copper.

In the Philatelic Society's work on Oceania the following description is given, based, doubtless, to a certain extent on the preceding information :

"ISSUE 1853-62.

"*One Value*.—Engraved on metal, and printed in the Colony. The sheet consists of fifty stamps, each separately engraved. There are consequently fifty varieties of type. A description of the stamp then follows: 'The value, which is not expressed, is Sixpence. Those first issued were imperforate, on stoutish white wove paper; but in 1860, and afterwards, the stamp appeared perforated 12 and 13; and in 1862 the paper was watermarked with a large numeral 6. The colours first employed were red and blue, the red being afterwards changed to orange, which was again, later on, changed back to red.'

" 1853.	6d., red and blue (shades of each), imperforate.			
	6d., orange	"	"	"
1860.	6d., red	"	"	perf. 12 and 13.
	6d., orange	"	"	perf. 12 and 13?
1862.	6d., red	"	"	wmk. large 6; perf. 13."

Article by Dr. A. Houison in the *Philatelic Record*, vol. x., pp. 189, 190, 191. Availing himself of the *entrée* that he had to the various postal departments, the Doctor succeeded in giving us dates and full information as to the engraving of the plates. I think it will be advisable to freshen our memories by a short *résumé* of the important information that Dr. Houison was then enabled to give, and I may at once say that anything that I may add to the sum of knowledge on these stamps consists of sub-varieties stumbled across in the arrangement of my stamps, and not in any contravention of the dates and facts contained in Dr. Houison's invaluable paper.

From the Report of the Postmaster-General for 1856, Dr. Houison quoted the following :

"New plates have been introduced during the year. One of these, the Five-penny stamp, was intended to be useful in the country districts as including the united inland and ship postage charge. The other stamp is that called the Registry Stamp, which is exclusively used to represent the fee for registration, and has been found extremely useful. It is the only stamp in which there are two colours, and, catching the eye readily, the circumstance of a registered being loose or mixed up with other letters is readily seen and rectified. The use of the stamp, too, as not being available for any other purpose, has to a very great extent prevented parties posting and marking, as registered, letters not duly entered as such, and for which they have not obtained receipts. The plate for the registry stamp was manufactured in this Colony. Then follows a letter from the Colonial Secretary, enclosing a copy of the tender for these stamps, both of which I now give :

"No. 72.

"THE COLONIAL SECRETARY TO THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

"COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE, SYDNEY,
"23rd June, 1855.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter (55-5, 606) of the 16th instant, I am directed to inform you that His Excellency the Governor-General approves of the designs for a stamp for registered letters therein submitted, and of the acceptance of Mr. Carmichael's tender for the execution of the plates.

I have, &c.,

"W. ELYARD.

"(For the Colonial Secretary.)"

"COPY OF TENDER.

"23rd May, 1855.

"I, John Carmichael, engraver, hereby agree to engrave two steel plates for printing *backed* registered stamps containing *fifty* labels, of a design approved by His Excellency the Governor-General, and to complete in a workmanlike manner and deliver the same in four months from the date of receiving the order, for the sum of £87 10s. I further agree that the said plates shall be subject to the approval of the Postmaster-General and Inspector of Stamps, as regards their execution, and to submit to a deduction from the price agreed upon of £2 for each week the plates are detained, after the first fortnight, beyond the specified period of four months.

"Witness, F. W. HILL.

JOHN CARMICHAEL.

"Signed 23rd May, 1855."

From this Dr. Houson gathers that "the contract was signed on 23rd May, 1855, and, allowing for the four months and two weeks for completing the engraving of the plates, gave 7th October as the date of the handing over of the plates to the Postmaster-General, and therefore they were in good time for the issue on 1st January, 1856. The stamps were printed on white wove paper, at first on unwatermarked paper, but about 1862 on paper watermarked with a large 6. They were perforated also at the same time as the other stamps; viz., in 1860. The perforations used were, in 1860, 12 and 13. I have an orange, unwatermarked, perforated 13. In 1862 the perforation appears to have been uniformly as 1860.

"By a decree from the General Post-office, Sydney, dated 24th December, 1867, notice was given that the registration stamp would become obsolete on the 1st January then next, owing to the reduction of the registration fee from 6d. to 4d. on that date, and that from the above date the registration fee must be paid by ordinary postage stamps."

It will be seen that but scant description is given of the paper on which these stamps are printed, nor is the list of colours a full one in the preceding lists.

THE IMPERFORATE STAMPS, JAN. 1, 1856.

From the specimens now submitted it will be seen that there is a wide divergence in the quality of the paper. Judging from the clearness and sharpness of the impression, I place the vermilion-centred stamps as the first issued. The paper on which these are printed is thick wove, of a porous nature and close texture, and *soft* to the touch, being, I should imagine, machine-made. It varies from medium thin to quite thick, and took the impressions in a brilliant manner. It is interesting to note that in these sharp and early impressions the faintest trace of the engraver's *burin* can be readily discerned; in some instances quite a number of hair lines can be noticed outside of and intersecting the frame, while on certain stamps, *e.g.*, Nos. 5 and 45 on the plate, the lettering has further involuntary adornments. In the latter the "O" of South has a tail like an elongated "Q." I do not contend that these varieties are other than quite minor; but in view of the extreme importance attached to a single "hair line" in other countries, I thought that their mention would be condoned.

A more important variety which has not yet been chronicled, and of which I fondly believed I had the only copy, is the specimen shown with the blue frame *only*, printed on the reverse side, and evidently being part

of the entire sheet so printed. I am, however, very pleased to find that the Tapling collection also possesses a specimen, for as an evidence of the manner in which these bi-coloured impressions are produced it has a distinct interest to a collector of Oceanian stamps.

The vermilion-centred stamp has been variously quoted as existing rouletted, but I do not attach much credit to the announcement, the opinion that I have thereof being merely shown as an old friend—and *quantum valeat*.

I now come to the second variety of paper of this issue. Instead of being, as preceding, thickish and soft, this paper is of a tough thin nature that gives an almost greasy appearance to the impressions. It is of a yellowish tinge and also wove, but of a close texture, hardly showing any "grain," and is undoubtedly hand-made. The colour of the centre impression is always some shade of orange, and no specimen other than reprint, as far as I am aware, has been seen with the head in vermilion, carmine, or carmine red. The impressions generally did not take so well as on the preceding paper, and the effect is therefore less pleasing. I am under the belief that I have seen specimens, from the edge of the sheet no doubt, with letters indicative of the maker of the paper, which, I should think, emanated from this country.

As will be noted, there is considerable variety in the colours, separately and conjunctively, and I have found some of them scarce. I need not, however, further allude to these, as I have endeavoured to classify them in the Synopsis.

In addition to the foregoing and regular issues, this imperforate stamp has been twice reprinted. Old collectors have for many years past been cognisant of stamps printed on a thin tough paper, differing from that of the regular issue, and with the head in pale carmine or orange, and the frame in Prussian blue, printed in a clear, sharp style, and surcharged horizontally with the word "Specimen." As I have previously said, I have not heard of the existence of any other stamps with this colour on the hard paper. I can only surmise that, perhaps for reasons of exchange with other Postal authorities, the Sydney Post-office must have had these specially printed at a later date, probably while the perforated pale carmine and Prussian blue colours were in vogue. I hope that Dr. Houison, or some other of the leading Australian Philatelists, will be enabled to ascertain when and for what purpose these stamps were printed.

During the last five or six years the existence of a further imperforate variety must have become known to most collectors. The paper on which these stamps are printed is of a thick yellowish nature, almost amounting to card in texture. It is wove, closely granulated, of good quality, and possibly hand made. There is no gum, the two shades are pale carmine-red and full orange, and the specimens are all unused. The perturbation that existed in Philatelic circles a very few years since with regard to the appearance of the Jarvis-engraved laureated stamps, in quantities, unused, will be within the memory of every member. In that case a wholesale series of reprinting, under very exceptional circumstances, took place, the product of which was skilfully placed upon the market with a view to

deceive collectors. Relying to a great extent upon the assumed destruction of the plates, many collectors, including myself, were for a considerable time loth to believe that these stamps were other than remainders. These stamps were, however, ultimately shown to have been produced by a then well-known collector in Sydney. I mention these well-worn facts, as I am in possession of evidence, in letters sent to me a considerable time ago, associating this same gentleman with the production of the last-named varieties of the imperforate stamps on the thick card paper.

As far as I can gather from the various sources of information, the reason for the existence of these varieties is as follows :

The collector in question "found" the old battered and defaced copper plate, on which the last (and first) of the 2d. Sydney Views had been printed. How such a valuable commodity, defaced as it was (as can be seen from the photograph in Dr. Houison's book on the New South Wales stamps), could ever have become "lost, stolen, or strayed," passes my humble comprehension. Eventually, however, it came to the ears of the Postal authorities, and a not unnatural desire was evidenced to regain possession of the missing plate. The collector in question chanced to meet "one having authority" at a social gathering, and a post-prandial discussion on the subject ultimately resulted in an undertaking on the part of the collector to return the plate to the Post-office, in consideration of there being *reprinted* for him six sheets of the registered stamps, from the plates then, and now, existing in the Post-office at Sydney. In accordance with this understanding, three plates were printed in each shade, and the "spoil" was at a later date divided between the collector and a friend thus—each two vermilion—and two orange-centre complete sheets; and each one half-sheet of either colour. The four complete sheets ultimately drifted, like so much that is valuable, to this country, and the late Mr. T. K. Tapling acquired one of each colour for his collection. I purchased one of the vermilion, as shown, and the remaining complete orange sheet was sold at auction, but I am not aware if it has been cut up, though I think this is very probable. On the assumption that my figures are correct, there were 300 of these specimens reprinted (of which three, or perhaps four, sheets now exist) by the Government, and they are therefore but *reprints*, choice as far as quality goes, and extremely limited in their issue. Like many of the German envelopes, I fancy, as time goes on, they will be as much valued as the originals. In any case, the re-issue of stamps without the word "Specimen" or "Reprint" in our Colonial possessions happily occurs so rarely that these stamps must always maintain an exceptional interest.

THE PERFORATED ISSUE OF 1860.

The same hard paper was continued for the use of these stamps, and the predominating orange colour was also maintained, modified at an apparently subsequent date to a pale and rather dull carmine. Both frame and centre vary according to the several printings. The perforation gauges 12 and 13. In the former both shades are found, the orange being far the commoner. In the latter I must confess that I have never seen but the

carmine; but Dr. Houison states in his article that he possesses the orange, perf. 13, and it must certainly be a rare stamp. The gum varies in both series from almost white to brown, as also the relative colours of the impressions.

THE PERFORATED STAMPS, WITH WATERMARK, ABOUT 1862.

It is to be regretted that we have no exact indication of the date of the introduction of the watermarked paper; but as Dr. Houison says that in 1862 the perforation was uniformly 13, the date assigned must be approximately correct. This paper is very similar to the last, apparently a trifle less tough, occasionally quite thin, and so closely resembles that used for the large square series that I incline to believe it is part of that used for the ordinary 6d. values. The perforation on these stamps gauges uniformly 13, and the colour is always of a carmine to vermilion shade, subject to which the colours of the impressions vary, as detailed in the Synopsis; the gum ranges from whitish to brown. The watermark, consisting of a large double-lined numeral of value (6), varies in shape and size, and is found both inverted and reversed. Double impressions of the outer line are found, as will be seen in some cases of quite a distinct character, and apparently differing from that semi-blurred appearance caused by a slip in the impression that so often passes current in other stamps for "double printing." I now append a list of the several varieties:

SYNOPSIS.

ISSUE I., JAN. 1ST, 1856.

Imperforate.

(a) Paper: thick soft white to yellowish wove, varying considerably in substance. Gum: white and brown.

Vermilion and blue, dark and Prussian blue.

Carmine-red and deep blue.

Shades of all.

Orange and sky blue.

Orange and blue, full to dark.

Pale carmine and chalky-blue.

(1) Varieties: with impression on reverse side of blue frame; vermilion and dark blue.

(2) Misplacement of the second impression in red, leaving white central space. Specimens showing extra stroke of engraver's *burin*, as Nos. 5, 45, etc.

(b) Paper: medium thin, hard, yellowish wove, hand-made, and varying in thickness. Gum: white and brown.

Orange and pale blue, sky blue.

Orange-red and pale blue.

Orange-red and dark and Prussian blue.

Shades of all.

REPRINTS (Date ?)

a. On thin white wove paper, apparently machine-made, surcharged "Specimen."

Pale vermilion and blue.

Orange and blue.

About 1888.

(b) On stout yellowish wove paper, almost the thickness of card.

Carmine-red and Prussian blue.

Deep orange and Prussian blue.

ISSUE II.

Perforated 12 and 13. 1860.

Paper: medium white to yellowish hard wove, varying in substance, and frequently discoloured by action of gum and printing inks; perforated 12, except on the outside lines of stamps forming the edges of the sheet. Gum: yellowish to dark brown.

Orange and pale blue to dark.

Orange-red and pale blue to dark Prussian blue.

Carmine, dull to pale, pale blue, Prussian blue.

Perforated 13.

Dull carmine, pale blue to Prussian blue.

ISSUE III.

About 1862.

Perforated 13; watermarked.

Paper: medium, yellowish, soft wove hard, but varying in substance. Gum: white and brown. Watermark large double-lined figure of value (6); perf. 13.

Pale carmine-red, and pale to full blue, and chalky blue.

Carmine-vermilion and deep to Prussian blue.

Varieties.

Double impressions of the blue frame are to be found, in some cases very distinct. The watermarks are found both inverted and reversed. I can only add that I have found these registration stamps not the least interesting of the Australian postal issues, and I trust that these notes may awaken a like interest in some of those who have been good enough to follow me.

The New Crusade against Speculative Issues.



WE have much pleasure in giving publicity to the following communication from across the Atlantic, shewing that there is a thorough community of ideas on this subject among the English speaking nations.

“NATIONAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.

“ROOM 26, BIBLE HOUSE.

“*Secretary's Office:* 11, PARK ROW, NEW YORK,

“June 18th, 1895.

“TO THE HON. SECRETARY,

“LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by the National Philatelic Society to forward to you a copy of resolutions (enclosed) passed at the last meeting. A Committee was

appointed to take up the work here in harmony with the Committees of your Society and the S. S. S. S. Our Committee, when organised, will confer with your Committee.

"Fraternally yours,

"W. F. GREGORY, *Secretary*.

"Whereas, it is the sense of this meeting of members of the National Philatelic Society that 'the great increase in the production of speculative stamps, for sale to collectors, threatens to have a very serious effect upon the collection of genuine postal issues throughout the world.'

"Resolved, That the National Philatelic Society expresses its sympathy with the initiatory work of the two London Committees, and hereby offers its co-operation, and the co-operation of its individual members, in the suppression of unnecessary and speculative issues."

BRUNEL.

Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. send us the following letter, which speaks for itself:—

"LABUAN, *Via* SINGAPORE,

"30th March, 1895.

"DEAR SIRs,—Your draft on Singapore for \$101.05 duly to hand, and the stamps shall be sent to you as soon as possible. I have just come back from Brunei, having gone to see the Sultan and Postmaster about your business principally. Let me explain that it was I who suggested to the Sultan that he should issue stamps, and I have arranged the whole thing. He and his Postmaster have no idea of the way to conduct any business. I assure you that the delay in sending the stamps to you is caused by the illness of the Postmaster's wife, at least, one of his wives. In the meantime the Post-office is shut. But I have your money, and I promise to send off the stamps, if it can be done, by next mail. I think that in future, should you wish more stamps, you should write to my brother, Mr. R. C. Robertson, 65, Bath Street, Glasgow, and send the money after you have got the stamps. He will send them to you almost immediately, or, at any rate, he will have them sent to you. But, of course, if you wish to have them direct, that is to say, indirect from Brunei, it is all the same to me, except that there is at least delay in your getting the stamps, and delay in me getting a sale, and on that depends whether or not I lose or gain by the whole venture.

"I am, dear Sirs, yours faithfully,

"J. C. ROBERTSON,

"*Manager, New Central Borneo Co., Limited,*

"*Labuan, via Singapore.*"

Messrs. Whitfield King add (needlessly) that they do *not* intend to sell Brunei "stamps"!



Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

B RITISH SOUTH AFRICA.—With reference to the remarks on the three-halfpenny post card of the British South Africa Company, contained in the number for November last, Mr. Tilleard tells us that the Postmaster-General for Rhodesia reports as follows :

“The three-halfpenny post card referred to had, I presume, been posted in these territories without a halfpenny adhesive stamp, and, therefore, the Postmaster of Office of origin would mark it simply with a T (for tax) to draw the attention of Cape Town to deficient postage.

“The 2d. taxation or surcharge was a mistake, and should have been 1d., and the card should not have been delivered as fully paid. These errors were not made by an official of the company.

“*The London Philatelist* can, therefore, be assured, if necessary, that any inscription on the card was of a ‘postage due’ character, and not a surcharge to alter value.”

DISCOVERIES.

N EW ZEALAND.—Mr. W. T. Wilson, who has revelled in the study of these delightful stamps for the past quarter of a century, kindly sends us note of an interesting variety. The stamp referred to is the 6d. blue of the 1892 issue, which has always been scarce in this compound perforation. Mr. Wilson was the possessor of a pair postmarked “Dunedin Fe 73,” perforated 13 above and 10 below horizontally, and *imperfurate* vertically. The only specimens of this compound perforation that had existed, to our previous knowledge, were those gauging 10 horizontally and 13 vertically, so that this is, on all accounts, a very interesting discovery.

QUEENSLAND.—Issue III., 1886, 4d. violet, lithographed. The Rev. P. E. Raynor has found a copy of this stamp in which the word “four” is quite illegible, being represented by very faint and rudimentary dots. This was submitted to Mr. Hadlow, who remarks: “I have not seen a copy of this stamp before with the inscription ‘four’ so much removed, but have seen it with all the figures more or less faulty. Probably the stone was faulty in grain at this particular spot.” Perhaps some of our readers may have noticed similar vagaries in this stamp.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—Mr. H. W. Plumridge kindly sends us a specimen of the 9d. in the warm or mauve shade of the 1867-72 issue, with a remarkably clear impression on the reverse side. Practically the printings are equally distinct on either side, and, being both well centred, there is no doubt but that the stamp, having already once done postal service, could be reversed and serve again. This stamp is chronicled in “South Australia,” but perf. 11½, whereas Mr. Plumridge’s specimen is compound 11½ horizontally by 12½ vertically.

Occasional Notes.

ELECTIONEERING AND PHILATELY.

THE connection between politics and stamp collecting is of the slenderest kind. In the midst of the turmoil of contested elections and heated political vapourings, the mere Philatelist is but a wisp of straw in the whirlpool. It is, however, of interest to the Philatelic world to note that the Hereditary Earl-Marshall of England, the Duke of Norfolk, has been appointed H.M. Postmaster-General in the Unionist Government. The Duke is well known throughout England, and especially in his own county of Sussex, as an able and hardworking man, and it is therefore safe to assume that he will carry out his duties to the satisfaction of the public in general and Philatelists in particular. In connection herewith the following amusing incident has appeared in the press:—"Down in Oxfordshire a curious grievance was brought to light at an election meeting. A labouring man complained that a stamp he purchased at a village post-office had no adhesive gum upon it, and he was unable, therefore, to use the 'Queen's head.' The Radical candidate announced that he would make a special point of directing the Duke of Norfolk's personal and earnest attention to the matter directly he was returned to Westminster" (an unlikely contingency!).

SOUTH AFRICAN PHILATELIC NEWS.

WE are once more indebted to Capt. Norris Newman for the following interesting items:

"I have just returned from a hurried trip on special business to the Transvaal, having been a month only away, but whilst down at Pretoria and Johannesburg I took the opportunity of visiting the Postmaster-General, Mr. Isaac Van Alphen, a member of our Society, and, through his courtesy, I was enabled to look through the Transvaal State collection, just recently completed up-to-date by Mr. Osborne, the Postmaster at Johannesburg, and I must at once confess that the reality fell far short of my expectation, for, with the exception of a few fine sheets of old Transvaal V.R.'s, and present, or rather recent, surcharges, there was absolutely nothing in the book, except a common assortment of the later issues of the various countries, exchanged stamps under the Universal Postal Union, and a host of reprints of the older values, whilst many of the countries were also manifestly hardly fully represented even in recent issues. Mr. Van Alphen is not a collector himself, and is only just beginning to take an interest in Philately, and the long talk I had with him on the subject has, I hope, done something to kindle the fire of enthusiasm which should characterise even a Philatelist tyro. Of the three sets sent them, one is in the National Collection, one is kept in an office collection for reference, and the third was given to Mr. Osborne and his predecessor at the work for putting in the stamps in the book. Just a few notes on matters which occurred between us in chatting, and which may prove, or not, of interest to Philatelists.

"(1) On looking over the sheets of early Transvaal it was clearly apparent how so

many of the perforated set are found imperforate generally on two sides. It is because the sheets were not perforated round the outside of the rows of stamps, either horizontally or vertically, and often missed a row inside as well, and, there being lots of space between the two rows, the stamps are easily cut round the other two sides, so as to appear imperforate entirely.

"(2) Speaking about the 'Halve Penny' surcharge on 6d. Queen's Head (a note on which is contained in the April number of our journal), Mr. Van Alphen explained that several sheets had been so surcharged, instead of with 'Twee Pence,' as ordered, by mistake, and the sheets were sold with the others at the same rate, but, being noticed as they went through the post, the officials refused to pass the 'Halve Penny' surcharge on twopence value, until the Postmaster-General gave order to do so, the public having paid 2d. each for them, though Mr. Van Alphen can give no details as to how the mistake arose, or how many sheets were so done in error. A subsequent visit to Mr. Tamsen fully bears out these statements, as he has complete sheets of both kinds unused, and on neither sheet does an error occur, the whole of the pane having been surcharged either with the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or the 2d.

"(3) Referring to the Swaziland error, Mr. Van Alphen could also give no explanation, except that they were noticed after it was too late to alter them, as the stamps were urgently needed for use at Bremendorp. He admitted that the omission of the 'd' in the one corner stamp of each sheet of most varieties was somewhat peculiar, and that the inverted surcharges, and stops after some, viz., the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and 2d., were only noticed after a lot had been struck off. The remainder of these stamps were all sold by public tender some time ago, and are getting scarcer every day.

"(4) As to the New Republic Remainders, it appears that M. Emil Tamsen offered 3d. a piece for them all round, when the Republic was taken over by the Transvaal, and then the Government consented to let them go at that, without calling for tenders; including all values from 1d. to 30s. These stamps have always had a ready sale at double their face value, so that Mr. Tamsen has made a good 'spec' out of the affair in more ways than one.

"(5, and last.) Have you noticed that the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 6d., and 1s. of the last octagonal issue were all five struck off from a die with shafts to the waggon instead of a pole (a similar mistake to that made in engraving the die for the firm Kruger Sovereign). This was only recently found out, and the die altered, so that now all the values except the 6d. and 1s. (a lot in stock) are from the altered dies, and show a pole; viz., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d. The 3d. has always been correct; and as the authorities have still large quantities of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 4d., 5s., 10s., £5 of the old type, these will not be issued in the octagonal form for a long time yet. The 1d. post-cards are also with shafts instead of pole; but will be altered when the previous stock runs out. I might also call your attention to the fact that there are nearly a dozen errors in each sheet of the recently surcharged Natal $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d., including capital E instead of H, av instead of y, no dots after 'Postage,' and difference of type in the word 'postage,' together with a very distinct difference in the shade of the surcharge, some being very dark, other sheets very lightly overprinted.

"The more recent $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d. only contain two errors (?) thank God, being a broken A, thus A, which occurs twice on the same pane.

"British Bechuanaland, being about to be annexed to the Cape, will thereafter, of course, use only Cape stamps. Our British South African Company's stamps have recently been issued with several distinct shades, darker and thicker gum, and different sizes perforated, though the scale is the same; making some varieties larger or smaller, as the case may be, than the previous stamps were."

It appears from other portions of our enterprising correspondent's letter that there is a great and rising philatelic interest in South Africa, many collectors being known to Captain Newman as possessing large and valuable collections, notably in South African stamps. Prominent among these is Mr. Emil Tamsen, whose philatelic possessions Captain Newman has recently seen. In addition to his already numerous duties, Captain Newman has become editor and proprietor of the *Rhodesia Weekly Review*, whose success will be desired by all our readers.

"PECKITT'S CATALOGUE, 1895."

THIS little volume, which is entitled *Catalogue and Price List of the Postage Stamps of British North America and West Indies*, is a concise and well-compiled list of the several varieties of the above-named countries, intended primarily as a list of the prices at which the stamps can be obtained at the publishers', but constituting, at the same time, a most useful and portable ($4\frac{1}{2} \times 3$ inches) pocket *vade mecum* for the very numerous class of collectors who now affect these fashionable issues. It is an open secret that Mr. Peckitt's treasure-hoards contain many of the most sought-after Colonial issues, and we can only hope that this—his first venture in the compilation of a catalogue—may not only meet with the success it deserves, but be the forerunner of others in the future. We have only to add that the descriptive portion is true and accurate; that it is well-printed on one side of the page only, thus allowing for marginal additions; that the several surcharges are faithfully represented in type; and that it should be in the hands of all collectors of these stamps.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

CANADA.—We have to chronicle a very handsome envelope issued on June 14 last, at Ottawa. A central circle contains a well-executed profile of the Queen, on a solid ground of colour, surrounded by an outer circular band, containing the inscription, "CANADA POSTAGE," "CENTS 2 CENTS," surmounted by a beaver.

Envelope. 2 c., blue-green on white laid; 150×85 mm.

CEYLON.—The *Austria Philatelist* chronicles two provisional 3 c. postal cards, made by surcharging the original value on the stamp of the 5 c. card on buff paper, with a large numeral "3" in black, and the other by surcharging the same card in red, with the words "THREE CENTS," and also obliterating the original value in red.

Post Cards, 3 c., in black, on 5 c., blue on buff.
Three Cents, in red on 5 c., blue on buff.

INDIA.—The following notice, taken from the *Monthly Journal*, accompanied the issue of the wrappers noted last month :

"POSTAL NOTICE.

"On and after the 1st May, stamped wrappers for newspapers and packets will be available for sale at all Post-offices, at the following rates :

"HALF ANNA WRAPPERS.

	rs.	a.	p.
"Any number less than 6, each	0	0	7
Packets of 6 ... per packet	0	3	6

"ONE ANNA WRAPPERS.

	rs.	a.	p.
"Any number less than 6, each	0	1	1
Packets of 6 ... per packet	0	6	6

"These wrappers can be used for the transmission of newspapers and packets by either the inland or foreign post, and additional adhesive stamps can be affixed to the wrappers when the weight is more than is covered by the stamps printed upon them.

(Signed) "H. M. KISCH,

"Offg. Director-General of the Post-office in India.

"CALCUTTA, the 15th April, 1895."

NEW ZEALAND.—The lettercard chronicled on page 82 is now printed on fawn coloured card. *Letter Card.* 1½d., mauve on fawn.

QUEENSLAND.—A contemporary states that the ½d. label with plain background has only been seen at present upon wrappers ; we, however, some weeks since saw an entire perforated sheet of this stamp, and duly chronicled it. We understand that a few sheets of the 1d. with plain background were printed on thin, unwatermarked paper, pending the arrival of a fresh supply with the Q and Crown watermark.

Adhesive. 1d., vermilion ; new type ; no watermark.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Selangor*.—The 2 c. stamp of tiger type is now printed in orange. *Adhesive.* 2 c., orange.

A new series of stamps for the Native States of the Malay Peninsula (Pahang, Perak, Selangor, Sungei Ujong, and Negri Sembilan) will soon be issued.

The values prepared are 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 10, and 50 cents, and 1, 2, 5, 25, and 100 dollars. The colour for the "cents" stamps will be purple, and for the "dollar" stamps green, with the name of the state, and the value, in each case, in different colours.

The central design in the lower values is a tiger's head ; and although there is still room for doubt whether an ideal tiger has been realized, the design is a distinct improvement on that of the current issues. In the case of the "dollar" values, the stamps are oblong, and of a larger size than the others, and the central design consists of an artistic group of elephants.

The whole series is available for postage and revenue purposes ; but, as some of the States will only require low values, it may be some considerable time before the whole of the higher values are brought into use.

TURKS ISLANDS.—A 2½d. envelope of similar type to the 4d. adhesive, with head in octagon, is in issue.

Envelope. 2½d., ultramarine on white laid ; 140×80 mm.

EUROPE.

BULGARIA.—The following changes of colour are announced :

Adhesives. 15 stot, red-violet.
30 ,, light-brown.

HOLLAND.—The following have appeared in new colours :

Adhesive. 22½ c., dark blue green.
Adhesive, unpaid. 1 c., ultramarine, Type 3.

ICELAND.—A new value of the Service stamps.

Adhesive. 50 aur., mauve (*Service*)

SERVIA.—*Le T. P.* chronicles the following cards with stamp of the new type :

<i>Post Cards.</i>	5 para, red on straw.	
	5+5 " " (rep 3).	
	10 " blue on white	
	10+10 " " (reply).	
<i>Letter Cards.</i>	5 " carmine on grey-blue.	
	10 " blue " "	

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—The ½ c. label has appeared in slate-blue.

Adhesive. ½ c., slate-blue.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

DANISH WEST INDIES.—*Le T. P.* chronicles the 50 c. adhesive surcharged "10 cents —1895," in black, issued on May 18th last.

Adhesive. 10 c., in black, on 50 c., violet.

PERSIA.—In addition to the 16 shahi envelope, chronicled last month, there are also :

Envelopes. 5 shahi, blue, on white wove, 140×108 mm.
8 " brown " "

TUNIS.—The *American Journal of Philately* has received the 75 centimes, printed in black on orange, perf. 14×13½.

Adhesive. 75 c., black on orange.

TURKEY.—A 1 piastre Letter Card has been issued, with stamp of the current type adhesives, and inscriptions in French and Arabian.

Letter Card. 1 piastre, blue on rose.

TRANSVAAL.—The following are the values now in use, with the shafts of waggon altered to a pole.

Adhesives. ½d., slate.
1d., carmine.
2d., olive.
3d., violet.
1s., green.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

MEMBERS are reminded of the notice which appeared in our June number, as to the Society's rooms being temporarily closed between July 18th and Aug. 14th, inclusive.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. T. WILSON.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

May 16.—Messrs. W. Vibert and W. Ward (Jersey), were unanimously elected members.

Offers of exchange were received from the Milan Society, and were cordially accepted, but the final arrangements were deferred until the Autumn Session.

Subscriptions were voted to the *American J. of P., Metro. Phil., Phil. J. of America, Post Office, and The Australian Phil.*

Messrs. Pimm and Johnson then exhibited their collections of British North America.

The January and February packets (£200 14s. 11½d. and £197 5s. 1d.) have been returned. £53 3s. 4d., and £58 11s. 2d. had been purchased from them, in addition to £15 13s. 7d. net cash, purchased from the Canadian packet, which was circulated with the January packet. The last four packets have been £248 19s. 5d., £247 11s. 1½d., £221 9s. 6d., £254 4s. 4½d. The summer seems to be enlarging, rather than diminishing them.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—A. DE WORMS, 27, Adelaide Crescent, Brighton.

THE fourteenth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, 22nd April, at 7.45 p.m. Present—Sir Henry Bunbury, Messrs. J. W. Gillespie, W. T. Willett, Otto Pfenninger, E. J. W. Sang, Herbert Davis, P. de Worms, E. E. Manwaring, A. de Worms, R. J. Woodman, and H. Stafford Smith; and one visitor, Mr. Harry Hilckes.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Mr. J. W. Gillespie took the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Colonel R. Alexander, proposed by the Hon. Secretary, and seconded by Mr. Willett, was duly elected a member of the Society. The Hon. Secretary then read some notes on the pence issues with crown and CC watermark, and the cent series of Ceylon. He showed several fine specimens of each variety, and said that of the pence values there were two distinct sets—the first being the long stamps, printed on paper with four panes of 60 watermarks, and the words "Crown Colonies" through the centre of the sheet; the latter, or short stamps, being printed on paper with 240 watermarks not divided into panes.

Mr. J. W. Gillespie proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon. Secretary, which was seconded by Mr. Willett, and carried.

A. DE WORMS, *Hon. Sec.*

27, ADELAIDE CRESCENT, BRIGHTON.

THE sixteenth meeting of the season was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, May 20th, at 7.45 p.m. Present—Colonel R. Alexander, Messrs. M. P. Castle, J. W. Gillespie, O. Pfenninger, H. Davis, R. J. Thrupp, P. de Worms, H. J. Gillespie, A. de Worms, H. H. Thomas, E. J. W. Sang, H. Stafford Smith, E. E. Manwaring, A. Upton. The President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, the President explained that a Society had been formed by the London Philatelic Society for the suppression of unnecessary stamps. After a discussion, Mr. J. W. Gillespie proposed a resolution, "That this Society cordially approves of the action of the London Philatelic Society, and the trade, in endeavouring to suppress the issuing of unnecessary stamps." Mr. H. Davis seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. The President then gave an

account of the stamps of Spain, and exhibited his magnificent collection of this country, every variety being represented by several unused specimens in perfect condition. A vote of thanks was accorded to the President.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Alexander, Colonel R.	Manwaring, E. E.
Biggs, C. N.	Marshall, C. F. D.
Brown, Colonel A. M.	Morse, C. R.
Bunbury, Sir H., Bart.	Murray, B. C.
Burrows, S.	Pfenninger, O.

Castle, M. P.	Redman, J. H.
Clark, H.	Sang, E. J. W.
Cotton, S. H.	Smith, H. Stafford.
Cruttwell, W. H. G.	Thomas, A. H.
Davis, H.	Thrupp, R. J.
Dill, G. F. Gordon.	Upton, A.
Gillespie, H. J.	Willett, W. T.
Gillespie, J. W.	Woodman, R. J.
Griffith, H.	Worms, Baron de
Harrison, W.	(Hon. President.)
Hodgson, G. G.	Worms, A. de.
Hughes, W. E.	Worms, P. de.
	Wright, H. E.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

Hon. Secretary—W. DORNING BECKTON, Daisy Bank, Swinton Park.

THE fourth annual meeting was held on the 17th May, at the Blackfriars Hotel, Mr. Vernon Roberts in the chair. After the minutes of the last annual meeting had been read and confirmed, the President gave a brief address, congratulating the Society on its continued success, and the great interest taken in it by the members, as evinced by the large attendance at the meeting. The Hon. Secretary then read the annual report. During the past session, which is the fourth of the Society's existence, fifteen ordinary and sixteen list meetings have been held. At each of the ordinary meetings, as hitherto, papers have been read, which contained matter of a useful kind for the information and guidance of members. The past session has not been at all sensational, but future events will show that good work has been done. There has been a slight increase of members during the year. The opening meeting proved most successful, and the lantern display, which inaugurated the session, received a most flattering notice in the leading philatelic journal. The lantern exhibitions have become more or less identified with this Society, and all philatelists are greatly indebted to Mr. Ridpath for bringing prominently forward a means by which much more can be learned from the stamps themselves, than by a study under a microscope, however careful such study may be. The usual annual dinner was held at Christmas. The Society is again indebted to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, Mr. William Brown, and others, for gifts of books and magazines to the library. The hearty thanks of the

Society are tendered to them, also to the *Manchester City News*, and the various philatelic journals, for the insertion of the reports of our meeting. After careful consideration, the committee have decided not to publish an epitome of the papers read before the Society during the last session, but arrangements have been concluded for the publication in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* of the papers read by Mr. G. B. Duerst on the "Stamps of Roumania." After their appearance in this journal, it is contemplated to issue these papers in book form. It is to be hoped that philatelists and collectors will communicate to Mr. Duerst particulars of any varieties he may not have chronicled in his papers, and will also criticise the articles as they appear, so that the book, when published, may be as reliable a guide as present knowledge can make it. The Hon. Treasurer then presented his financial statement, showing a balance in favour of the Society of £10 6s. 10d.

The ballot for the election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Mr. Vernon Roberts; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. W. D. Beckton and J. H. Abbot; Treasurer, Mr. G. B. Duerst; Librarian, Mr. F. Barratt; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. W. Munn; Assistant Hon. Secretary, Mr. C. H. Coote. Committee, Messrs. G. F. H. Gibson, W. Grunewald, and E. Petri. After some discussion, it was resolved to try a Stamp Exchange Packet, to circulate amongst members of the Society only. A secretary and sub-committee were appointed to draw up rules, so as to start at the beginning of next session. The meeting was

brought to a close by a private auction of members' stamps. The bidding was brisk, and a large number of lots were sold.

On the 25th May, the session was terminated by a picnic to "ye ancient city of Chester," with a sail up the River Dee, past Eaton Hall.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Honorary.

The Earl of Kingston. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C.
M. P. Castle T. Ridpath.

Ordinary.

J. H. Abbott. J. E. Heginbottom.
F. Barratt. J. R. Hesketh.
J. S. Baruxachi. W. Jones.

F. J. Beazley. M. Litchfield.
W. D. Beckton. T. L. Marsden.
G. Blockey. W. W. Munn.
E. P. Collett. J. C. North.
C. H. Coote. D. Ostara.
G. B. Duerst. R. Pellow.
E. A. Ehlinger. P. L. Pemberton.
W. E. Farrar. E. Petri.
E. Fildes. F. A. Prout.
J. Flohr. Vernon Roberts.
G. F. H. Gibson. F. A. Roberts.
W. Grunewald. J. W. Simpson.
W. Hanmer. A. Wallace.
A. H. Harrison. R. H. Whapham.

W. W. MUNN, *Hon. Sec.*

ASHFIELD, PEEL CAUSEWAY, NEAR ALTRINCHAM.

THE NEW YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ROOM—I, EVERETT BUILDING, 25, ANN STREET.

FOUNDED JANUARY 23, 1891.

INCORPORATED FEBRUARY 1, 1892.

Governing Committee for 1895:

President—WILLIAM THORNE.
Secretary—FREDERICK AUGUSTUS NAST.
FREDERICK DE COPPETT.
JOHN WALTER SCOTT.

Vice-President—WILLIAM HERRICK.
Treasurer—HENRY CLOTZ.
CHARLES GREGORY.
HORATIO NELSON TERRETT.

FREDERICK WILLIAM HUNTER.

At the meeting of the Society Monday evening, April 15th, Mr. Herrick was called to the chair, in the absence of the President.

On motion, the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting was dispensed with.

Mr. Scott showed specimens of the new "white line" variety of the current 2 c. stamp, both used and unused. The probabilities are that a new mother die has been made, and that all the later sheets will be of the new variety. The sheets of the new variety so far known run between Nos. 145 and 155.

No member present had as yet seen any of the "counterfeit" 2 c. stamps, concerning which so much has been written in the daily press during the past fortnight. The general opinion is that the stamps referred to are not counterfeits, but are a portion of the lot stolen from the Bureau of Engraving some time ago, most of which have been recovered. The possibility of henceforth printing United States stamps on watermark paper will add new interest to the collection of issues of this country.

Mr. Herrick read his paper on the stamps of the French Congo, quoting copies of all the different decrees authorizing many issues of these stamps, and illustrated his paper by specimens of all the stamps mentioned,

many of them in complete sheets, and almost all in both used and unused condition.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Herrick was passed, and the paper ordered to be printed in *The Metropolitan Philatelist*.

At the next meeting, May 19th, Mr. Deats will read an article on the Petersburg, Va. stamp, which he has been plating.

Adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

THE regular meeting of the Society was held in its enlarged quarters at No. 25, Ann Street, on Monday evening, May 20th, 1895.

Mr. Henry C. Lawrence, 166, West 88th Street, New York, Dr. B. M. Feldman, 170, East 79th Street, New York, and Mr. E. C. Hartshorn, 9, West 51st Street, New York, having passed the governing committee, were up for election. Messrs. Scott and Hobby, tellers, reported the unanimous election of each of the above-named gentlemen.

The Committee on new room reported that the additional charge to the Society would be \$180 per year.

Mr. Deats read a very interesting article on the Petersburg Confederate Local Stamp, illustrating the same by thirty-eight different

specimens, mostly on the entire envelope, and by photographs of the sheet as composed by him.

On the motion of Mr. Gregory, Mr. Deats received the thanks of the Society for his extremely able paper. Difficulties in the way of plating a sheet were almost insurmountable, owing to the want of pairs or strips; the only method feasible being the one pursued by Mr. Deats, using stamps which accidentally contain a portion of the next stamp on the sheet.

Mr. J. W. Scott read an article on the secret marks of the 1873 issue of United States

stamps, illustrating the same by proofs and specimens of the different issues loaned by Mr. Deats for the purpose. On motion, the paper was ordered to be made part of the Society's Reference List, and ordered to be printed in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

The Secretary exhibited blocks of the sheets containing the left capped 2, the right capped 2, and the left and right capped 2's., with margins showing plate numbers.

Mr. Davidson will read a paper on "Things not generally known about the U. S. Stamps" at the next meeting.

FREDERICK A. NAST, *Secretary*.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT.

Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—A. LEVY.

The Plymouth Philatelic Society brought the series of displays which have been held during the past session, to a successful close with an exhibition of the postage stamps of Great Britain. With the exception of those varieties which, although printed, have never been in active circulation, the exhibition included representatives of every die and each plate from which the adhesive postage stamps of this country have been produced during the past fifty-five years, in the great majority of cases in both the unused and used state. As the latest catalogue of these stamps fills a closely-printed book of sixty-four pages, it is impossible to enumerate the whole of the exhibits. The following summary of the chief items in each collection will, no doubt, be of interest.

Mr. A. R. Barrett (president). All unused, several specimens of the 1840 black, 1d., and blocks of various shades of the imperforate 1d., red. The 1d. perforated 14 small Crown, Die I.; two pairs and strip of three of the same stamp, Die II.; perforated 16, Die II. (3), one being on paper shewing no signs of the blue discoloration. The twopence perforated 14 small Crown; ditto large Crown pair and strip of three. The small halfpenny and twopenny plate numbers in blocks; 1½d. rose-lilac with and without "specimen." The values from 2½d. to 1s. nearly complete. The octagonal 6d., 1s., and 10d. pair. A complete unsevered sheet of the 1d., red, Plate 177.

Mr. R. T. Stevens (Vice-president). This display was mounted on the movable leaves of the exhibitor's newly-patented *Desideratum* album, and comprised used specimens of the surface-printed stamps produced by

Messrs. De La Rue, in an immense variety of shade, watermark, &c. Among the varieties were the 4d., large garter on apparently bleuté paper, and the same stamp both on very thick and on glazed paper, printed in the colour usually found in the medium garter; also a fine used copy of the scarce 2s. brown.

Mr. H. W. Mayne. Used Mulready envelope, bearing early dated postmark; unused block of six imperforate twopence, and forty halfpenny, Plate 8; registered envelopes and post cards, and the 1d. brown perforated 16 large Crown.

Mr. J. Milton. A good general collection, containing no rarities, but all fine specimens.

Mr. M. Z. Kuttner (London) sent thirteen large frames containing a mass of valuable stamps, prominent among which was a fine block of four 1d. reds, printed on the Dickinson paper (silk thread); Archer rouletted 1d., used; pair unused 6d. octagonal; used 2s. brown (fine); entire pane 1s. Plate 4, several fine used specimens of the 10d. octagonal; a reconstructed sheet of the 1d. rose, perforated 14 large Crown; Beaufort House essays; 150 varieties of foreign and colonial cancellations on British stamps; Guildhall post card and invitation to Guildhall conversazione; House of Commons envelope; Kensington ditto with Harry Furniss's caricature; Mulready envelopes and covers, ante-postage stamp cancellations, &c., &c., also a large quantity of unused adhesives, the same marked "specimen," and several imperforate varieties, including 4d., drab, Plate 15.

Mr. F. A. Pearse contributed five sheets of British fiscals or revenues, containing

representative embossed and surface-printed stamps, some of which are of exceeding rarity. They were divided as follows: England, English Municipalities, Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man.

Mr. A. Levy (Hon. Secretary) exhibited a portion only of his well-known collection. The principal items were an unsevered block of 48 imperforated 2d., Plate 4, the top four lines of sheet with margin and inscription; large blocks and single copies of the 1d. with the various perforations and watermarks, in numerous shades of brick-red to crimson; a fine specimen of the large Crown perforated 16 rose, all unused; the same being also shown complete with all the twopenny stamps on the original letters, including a *pair* of the early Archer perforated stamps on envelope, postmarked October 24th, 1850, although the Archer perforating machine was not adopted officially until 1854. The penny and halfpenny red plate numbers complete, nearly the whole being in blocks of six or nine. The twopence plate numbers complete, unused,

with shades. With few exceptions, the whole of the values up to 1s., with their plate numbers complete, unused. Fine used copies of the 10s. and £1 Maltese cross and anchor, white and bleuté paper. Mulready 1d. and 2d. envelopes and covers, used and unused, also caricatures of same. Used and unused I. R. officials, Government parcels, telegraphs, unused letter sheets, Post-office Jubilee Christmas card, reconstructed sheets of the 1d. black and 1d. red, imperforate. Unused silk-thread envelopes, dies 31, 57, 58, 63, 64, 67, 70, 79, 80, 83, 84, 85, 87, 95, including several of the scarce large size.

The exhibition, which was largely attended by visitors and members, did not close until a late hour. We are requested to state that the exchange branch continues in operation during the recess, and all communications should be made, as usual, to Mr. H. Tucker, jun., the exchange secretary, Belvedere, Mannamead, Plymouth.

ASHER LEVY, *Hon. Sec.*

190, UNION STREET, PLYMOUTH.

Correspondence.

"A CALIFORNIAN FIND."

DEAR SIR,—On page 141 of your valued paper, issue of May, 1895, and under the heading, "A Californian Find," reference is made to the genuineness of my Hawaiian 5 c. "Missionary" stamp. Your paper does not state what the "find" was.

I wish to state that one look is sufficient to any well-versed collector to convince him not only of the authenticity, but also of the great beauty and perfect condition of this stamp, which would ornament any collection. I have, however, two others of the same stamp on original covers, all of which I would be pleased to forward for your inspection if you would like to see them. The stamp you write of is on the original letter, the letter itself speaking of interesting historical events, such as the news of the death of Daniel Webster, etc. The other two are simply on the envelopes, and were sent from Massachusetts, U.S.A., prepaid with an unsevered pair of 3 c. U.S. stamps. The ship charge of local postage caused the Hawaiian stamps to be applied, and they are without a vestige of a tear or mar. The margins are complete on each of the stamps.

Mr. Stanley Gibbons, whom I had the pleasure of entertaining recently, mentions my collection in his monthly journal, issued May 31st, 1895. I showed him some rarities that he thoroughly enjoyed.

Yours respectfully,

HENRY J. CROCKER.

508, CALIFORNIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO,
June 14th, 1895.

INDIAN FISCALS POSTALLY USED.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—Perhaps you may care to use this below, for an "occasional note" in the *London Philatelist*. An early return of the specimens enclosed will much oblige. I had been told that the current 1 anna receipt stamps were available for postage in India. In order to test this, I had these two posted at different towns in India. Both were accepted, as you see, in each case making up the postage to the 2½ annas required for an English letter.

Believe me, Sir, yours truly,

A COLLECTOR.

[The specimens submitted were component fractions of the proper postal rate, and indubitably paid postage.—Ed.]

The Market.

MESSRS. R. F. ALBRECHT AND CO.
(New York City.)

WE are always glad to record any notable sales held outside Great Britain, and as we go to press receive a priced catalogue of the magnificent collection of stamps of the Western Hemisphere, the property of Mr. Louis Levison, sold by the above Company. Prices ruled extremely high. We have endeavoured to give the most notable, but would advise those interested to send for a priced catalogue, as in the 1,225 lots disposed of many of the smaller lots realised remarkably high prices. At this rate, we shall be needing fresh editions of our catalogues *monthly!* The total amount realised was £2,062 (\$5 = £1.)

	£	s.	d.
St. Louis, 10c., black	15	0	0
United States, 1851, 5c., brown, imperf., unused	8	16	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 24c., lilac, Ditto, ditto	13	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1861-66, 3c., <i>scarlet</i> , unused	10	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 1868, 3c., rose, grilled all over, unused	5	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 1869, 90c., unused	3	10	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, <i>reprints</i> , complete, unused set	15	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 1893, Columbus, \$1 unused	0	19	0
Ditto, ditto, State Sept., \$5 unused	18	6	0
Bahamas, 1861, 6d., violet, perf. 16, unused	3	4	0
British Guiana, 1850, 12c., dark blue, curled tail to 2	10	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1856, 4c., magenta	17	4	0
Montserrat, 4d., blue, CA, unused	4	16	0
Nevis, engraved, greyish paper, 4d., rose, unused	3	8	0
Ditto, engraved, white paper, 4d., orange, unused	2	8	0
Ditto, lithographed, 6d., olive, unused	8	4	0
Ditto, CA, 6d., green, unused	6	18	0
St. Christopher, 1d. on 2½d., blue, small surcharge, unused	15	0	0
St. Lucia, CA, perf. 14, 3d., blue, red surcharge	7	4	0
St. Vincent, wmk. star, 1/-, claret, unused	3	16	0
Ditto, ditto, 5/-, rose red, unused	6	12	0
Tobago, 1883, CA, 6d., brown, unused	7	11	0
Trinidad, Lady McLeod, pen-marked, on original envelope	15	1	0

	£	s.	d.
Ditto, 1859, engraved, 6d., imperf., green, used	3	2	0
Turks Islands, 1/-, prune, unused	20	4	0
Virgin Islands, perf. 15, 6d., rose, unused	5	7	0
British Columbia, 2½d., pink, imperf., unused	25	0	0
Ditto, 10c., blue, imperf., unused	3	14	0
Ditto, perf. 12½, 10c., rose, unused	3	2	6
Canada, 6d., purple, imperf., unused, <i>wove</i> paper	4	7	6
Ditto, 6d., slate grey, imperf., unused	6	4	0
Ditto, 7½d., green, imperf., unused	10	13	0
Ditto, 10d., blue, unused	6	6	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, unused	15	4	0
Ditto, Ditto, Ditto, used	4	11	0
Ditto, 1/-, violet, unused	45	6	0
Newfoundland, 4d., orange, unused	7	4	0
Ditto, 6d., orange, ditto	15	4	0
Ditto, 4d., carmine-vermilion, unused	20	0	0
Ditto, 6d., ditto, ditto, ditto	38	16	0
Ditto, 6½d., ditto, ditto, ditto	11	12	0
Ditto, 1/-, ditto, ditto, ditto	56	8	0
Nova Scotia, 6d., yellow-green, unused	5	4	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., dark green, unused	9	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, violet, unused	20	8	0
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, ditto, <i>used</i>	16	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1/-, mauve, <i>used</i>	28	8	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

AT a truly midsummer sale, on July 12th, this firm effected satisfactory results, as will be seen from a few of the prices attained, which we quote as under :

Naples, Arms	12	0	0
Ditto, Cross	4	5	0
Cape, wood blocks, 4 (average)	2	12	0
Virgin Islands, 6d., small perf., unused	5	10	0
Newfoundland, 6½, carmine, no margins	6	6	0
Nevis, 6d., green, unused	8	5	0
St. Vincent, 1s., brown, unused	4	5	0
Montserrat, 4d., blue, CA	4	10	0
Tobago, 6d., ochre, CA	12	0	0
Nevis, 1s., perf. 15, yellow-green	4	4	0
Ditto, 4d., rose on bluish, unused	4	15	0
Collection of 3,000 varieties	30	0	0

THE
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IV.

AUGUST, 1895.

No. 44.

The Long Firm.



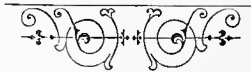
UNDER the above designation, the chameleonic reptiles, who are ever haunting the paths of civilization, and changing their mode of attack upon the unsuspecting citizen, are known to the students of our criminal annals and police reports. A noted phase of the career of these miscreants, is their ability to shift their *venue*, and to attack their victims in an entirely unsuspected quarter—the versatility of their deceptive arts being as astonishing as the ingenious manner in which they are executed. With many of these *chevaliers d'industrie*, confidence is the note played upon, until the very expression of “playing the confidence trick” has become almost idiomaticised in our vernacular. The prosaic police report of the case, when all the insidious wiles are shewn bare, leaves the reader prone with astonishment that so much innocent raw material should exist, ready for manufacture by the members of “The Long Firm.” It is, however, forgotten that it is easy to detect the plot and see the wiles of the schemer if one looks at the end of the volume, and that it is only the wary and far-seeing who are able to detect false motives and bad faith during their inceptive stages. The swindling spider spins his web so lightly and delicately over his victim, that the latter is usually only aware of his captivity when securely in the toils. No path is barred to these ingenious gentry, and even the quiet bye-ways of Stamp Collecting have come latterly to be infested with Philatelic will-o'-the-wisps. No less than three cases have recently been variously reported in the columns of our contemporaries, of “dealers” who have mysteriously disappeared, without that due discrimination of the rights of property that is considered part of the moral outfit of the subject.

The "plot" is simple in the extreme! Unbounded self-assurance and prolific mendacity are necessarily part of our Philatelic swindler's character. The public is speedily invited to also accredit him with all manners of virtues and possessions Philatelic, through the ready medium of copious advertisements. Collectors and dealers are made familiar with his name and person; he procures admission cleverly enough into respectable societies, pays freely for small purchases, and rapidly increases and widens his connections and liabilities, until he is indebted to various people for such large sums that it is worth his while to decamp, and recommence operations as a new man in another quarter of the globe.

It is obvious that for an evil of this kind, whether in Philatelic or general circles, there is no panacea beyond salutary recommendations to try a man before you trust him, and to urge the advisability of supporting well-known and respectable houses with a character to lose.

From a quarter of a century's experience as purchasers, we have always found a great amount of caution exhibited by the trade, notably on the Continent, before submitting stamps of any value on approval to collectors. The converse should also hold good. Undeterred by the sight of full-page advertisements proclaiming unlimited purchasing power on behalf of these mushroom firms, both collectors and dealers should insist on obtaining the usual substantial references before remitting goods or money to any new name. Great care should also be taken by the editors of the various Philatelic journals in the supervision of their advertisements. Anyone conversant with the financial aspects of stamp dealers will frequently find large and *catching* advertisements over the names of those whom they know to be men of straw—or worse.

It should be remembered that the inducement to swindle is in the like ratio to the value of the objects dealt in, and that the later extraordinary development of values in stamps has created a commodity which is far more than worth its weight in gold, and indeed "far above rubies." We can but therefore again enjoin upon our friends, in their future dealings with untried firms, to "let caution mark their guarded way," and to put not their faith in advertisements, unless supported by some more tangible evidence of good faith.



Early New Zealand Stamps.

By A. T. BATE, WITH NOTES BY E. D. BACON.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, MARCH 22ND, 1895.



R. A. T. BATE, a member of our Society resident in New Zealand, has, during the past two or three years, been collecting materials for a monograph on the stamps of that colony. I am looking forward, and I am sure the other members of our Society are also, to the publication of Mr. Bate's work, as there are a number of points connected with the issue and printing of the stamps of New Zealand that still require much investigation. No one can be more qualified than Mr. Bate to deal with some of the more difficult of these problems, as he is in a position to obtain assistance from the Government Departments at Wellington. I know I shall have your unanimous approval in assuring Mr. Bate that his work will meet with a hearty welcome from his fellow-members, whenever his researches are sufficiently advanced for him to publish a record of them.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bate has kindly forwarded me some interesting and valuable official information on the early stamps, which I now proceed to lay before you.

As I mentioned in an article in the *London Philatelist* of October, 1892, Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. forwarded 12,000 one penny, 66,000 twopenny, and 8,000 one shilling stamps, on star watermarked paper, with six reams of the same paper, and the three plates, &c., to the colony on September 22nd, 1854, and I stated that these were the only New Zealand stamps ever printed by that firm.

Mr. Bate tells me that these stamps were shipped by the *Simlah*, which arrived at Wellington in February, 1855, and that they were transhipped to Auckland, per the *Nelson*, in March, 1855.

As we know from the official notice in the *Government Gazette*, the stamps were issued at Auckland on July 13th, 1855, but Mr. Bate informs me that they only came into use at Wellington on the 1st October of that year. The seat of the Government was at that period at Auckland, and Mr. Bate adds that the stamps were distributed by the Colonial Treasurer there as under :—

		1d.		2d.		1s.
Auckland	...	5,120	...	25,700	...	3,880
New Plymouth	...	600	...	3,500	...	350
Nelson	...	750	...	5,000	...	450
Wellington	...	3,500	...	20,500	...	2,100
Canterbury	...	1,530	...	8,300	...	970
Otago	...	500	...	3,000	...	250
		<u>12,000</u>		<u>66,000</u>		<u>8,000</u>

A requisition for a further supply of one penny and twopenny stamps was received from New Plymouth on November 25th, 1855, but in October of that year arrangements had already been made in Auckland to commence printing the stamps locally. Full particulars of the methods adopted for the first colonial printings are given in the following important correspondence, a copy of which Mr. Bate has been good enough to send me :—

"31st Oct., '55,

"COLONIAL SECRETARY.

"RELATIVE TO THE PRINTING OF A FRESH SUPPLY OF
"POSTAGE STAMPS.

"There is but one person in the town competent to print the postage stamps. He can print them on a press of his own, without the necessity of setting up the press belonging to the Government. He will print them at 3s. per 1000; he will find colours and gum the paper, the Government finding the paper. The Government will also have to provide him with blanketing, and a stone to rub down the colours on, as he has not these articles, and cannot purchase them here. He also stipulates that some responsible person shall be present during the time he is at work.

"G. ELIOTT ELIOTT."

"15th Oct., 1855.

"I omitted to mention that the printer also stipulates, that as the printing of the stamps will entail considerable trouble and some expense on him in making arrangements which in the ordinary course of his business would be unnecessary, that he shall be allowed to print all the stamps the Government require for the ensuing twelve months on the terms specified. G. E. E."

"Query: Can this be obtained? A. S.

"And, if so, what cost? A. S."

"The articles themselves cannot be obtained, but a substitute can be procured. The cost will be from £2 to £4. G. E. E."

"Approved.

A. SINCLAIR, Oct. 30th, '55."

"Mr. Eliott is requested to superintend the printing of the stamps, using every precaution necessary to prevent unauthorised impressions being taken.

"A. SINCLAIR, Oct. 31st, '55."

"I have made arrangements for the man to commence printing these stamps on Monday next, the 5th inst. What quantity of each are to be printed?

"G. ELIOTT ELIOTT, 2nd Nov., '55."

"A quantity equal to what was received from England.

"A. SINCLAIR, Nov. 2nd, '55.

"One Penny 12,000 red.

"Twopence 66,000 blue.

"One Shilling 8,000 green."

"AUCKLAND, Nov. 12th, '55.

"MR. ELIOTT.

"SIR,—On account of the expense of production in printing the Postage Stamps being greater than anticipated, shall be under the necessity of charging 4s. per 1000 for printing and material used.

"Hoping you will be kind enough to lay the above statement before the Government,
I beg to remain,

"Your obedient servant, J. RICHARDSON."

"I beg to recommend that the additional 1s. per 1000 be given to the printer, as the expense of labour, gum, and other articles he has to provide are much greater than was anticipated, and the labour of printing is heavy and tedious.

"G. ELLIOTT ELLIOTT, 12th Nov., '55."

"16,776 penny stamps = £69 18s. have been printed, and are ready to be handed over to the Colonial Treasurer.

G. E. E., 12th Nov., '55."

"The Colonial Treasurer authorized to receive and issue these.

"A. SINCLAIR, Nov. 13th, '55."

"THE COLONIAL TREASURER,

"13th Nov., 1855.

"Referred to the Auditor-General.

A. SINCLAIR, Nov. 13th, '55."

"No objection.

CHARLES KNIGHT, Aud.-Genl., 15th Nov. '55."

"Approved.

A. SINCLAIR, Nov. 17th, '55."

"12,240 penny stamps = £51 have been printed, and are ready to hand over to the Colonial Treasurer.

G. E. E., 13th Dec., '55."

"COLONIAL TREASURER.

"Decr. 13th, '55.

55/349.

£ s. d.

"Accounts for printing 29,000 stamps, at 4s. per 1000 . 5 16 0

Extras 17 3

6 13 3

"Appd., 1st Feb., '56."

From the foregoing letters it will be seen that Mr. J. Richardson commenced printing the stamps on the 5th November, 1855, and that by the 13th December of that year 29,016 of the One Penny had been struck off. These figures are not divisible by 240, the number of stamps on each of the three plates, so it seems probable that 24 of the specimens were defective in some way, and were in consequence removed from the sheets. The number is also much in excess of that authorised for the One Penny, viz., 12,000, and no mention is made of Twopenny and One Shilling stamps, which were also ordered with the lowest value. I cannot help thinking that if further search is made by Mr. Bate, particulars will be found of printings of the Twopenny, if not of the One Shilling, as I believe the former value, at any rate, must have been locally printed in December, 1855.

It seems extraordinary, after the official information Mr. C. H. Mottram gave in the paper on New Zealand—which was read before the Society some few weeks since, and which showed that the use of a One Penny stamp in 1855 was limited to soldiers' and sailors' letters—that the local printing should have commenced with a value for which there could have been but a small demand, except that the stamps could be employed to make up the ordinary postal rate of Two Pence. I think you will, consequently, agree with me that the reason why the One Penny value was selected for the first local printing is one of the many points in the history of New Zealand stamps that requires clearing up.

Another point of much more importance that we still want information upon is, what paper was used for these locally-printed One Penny stamps?

Both the official correspondence and Mr. Bate are silent upon this subject. The question is, were the stamps printed upon part of the six reams of star watermarked paper, sent out by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. in 1854, or was blue or white unwatermarked paper used? This inquiry can only be determined by investigation in the Colony, and I am sure Mr. Bate will use every endeavour to ascertain what variety of paper was employed.

Besides the interesting correspondence on the locally-printed stamps, Mr. Bate sends me a few extracts from the Postmaster-General's Reports as under :

From the Appendices to the Report dated 4th June, 1860.

"At present date, stamps bear the name of the particular locality in which the Post Office is situated. I propose to designate the Post Offices by consecutive numbers."

Appendices to the Report for 1860, dated 1861.

"Propose to cease printing stamps by contract under supervision of a clerk in Colonial Secretary's Department as hitherto, and to make permanent provision for performance of work. Printing press imported some years ago now set up. The contract for printing stamps expires the 15th April, 1862."

Appendices to the Report dated 1862.

"Printing stamps commenced in the Postmaster-General's office in February, 1862. A perforating-machine has been ordered."

Mr. Bate further tells me that all the rouletted stamps he has examined have come from Auckland, the perforated "no watermarks" from Otago, and those with serrated perforations from Nelson. This information is verified by the different numbers of the postmarks that are found on stamps with these varieties of perforation, and the postmarks sometimes form a test whereby the perforations may be proved to be good or bad.

Since reading the foregoing notes before the Society, I have received a further communication from Mr. Bate. In this letter he tells me that he has been mounting part of his collection, and he sends me a list of the used stamps that he possesses with dated postmarks that are *earlier* than those noted in the list compiled by the Committee of the Philatelic Society, published in the *London Philatelist* for October, 1894.

The following is a copy :—

Star wmk.	1s., imperforate.	13.11.62.
"	2d., rouletted (ultramarine shade).	10.12.62.
"	2d. " (blue) on original cover.	Havelock. 21.3.63.
Pelure.	1d., imperforate.	Dunedin. 21.2.63.
"	2d. "	8.2.63.
"	2d., perforated.	27.2.63.
No wmk.	2d. "	16.10.63.
N Z wmk.	1d. "	—65.
"	6d. "	16.1.65.
Star wmk.	2d. "	16.1.63.
"	1d., bistre, perf. 10 × 12½.	—72.
"	1d. " " 10	1. (12?) 71.
"	2d., vermilion, perf. 10 × 12½	30.12.71.
No wmk.	2d. "	16.10.73.
N Z "	2d. "	5.8.73.
N Z and Star wmk.	2d., rose, <i>bleuté</i>	17.3.75

The New Crusade.

The Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

CIRCULAR NO. 2.



THE Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the Stamps mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of Philatelists, and appeal to all Collectors and Dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

4. BRITISH INLAND MAIL, MADAGASCAR.—Through the courtesy of Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., the Society is enabled to publish the following letter :

“BRITISH CONSULATE, TAMATAVE,
“18th May, 1895.

“GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th ultimo, with cheque enclosed.

“In reply, I beg to inform you that the ‘British Inland Mail,’ now running between Antananarivo and Vatomandry, a port on the south-east coast of this island, is not an official postal service at all, but a private speculation undertaken by a syndicate of gentlemen residing at Antananarivo, who, in order to facilitate matters, have arranged this Mail Service, and issued the stamps to which your letter refers.

“I may also inform you that the Malagasy Government has no postal service at all, and since the departure of the French from the capital, there has not been any communication to and from the coast, save by special couriers or the private Mail in question.

“Under the circumstances, I have not ventured to make the purchase you required. I have, however, kept the cheque in case you should still want the stamps, but I must state that communication between this and Vatomandry, or any part of Madagascar, is only by sea, and many days and even weeks sometimes elapse before a safe opportunity offers. By the time your reply reaches me I am afraid that the French will be very near Antananarivo, and the ‘British Inland Mail’ will be a thing of the past.

“I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

“Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) “ANATOLE SAUZIER.

“MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING & Co., Ipswich, England.”

5. BRUNEL.—See page 189 in our last issue.

6. CLIPPERTON ISLAND.—A set of stamps bearing this name has lately been distributed (anonymously) among the London Dealers ; the specimens are obliterated by a hand stamp, with the name of a firm in San Francisco. Clipperton Island is off the Western Coast, and is a part of the United

States, so that even if these stamps are not absolutely illegal and bogus, they are at any rate either speculative or unnecessary, or both. Under these circumstances, Collectors and Dealers are warned to beware of them.

7. EGYPT.—Paragraphs in the Press have recently appeared stating that a set of stamps will be brought out in the autumn, in connection with some fêtes or celebration festivities which will be held in Egypt. Collectors and Dealers are therefore put on their guard against an issue which would appear to be “unnecessary.”

8. BUSSAHIR.—A set of stamps bearing this name has recently been issued. This country appears to be a native state in the Northern part of India, governed by a Rajah, of Rajpoot origin. It is a very mountainous region, having an area of about 3000 square miles, and peopled by a race not very highly civilized. Whether these stamps have been issued by the native government (which appears unlikely, considering the nature of the country) or not, Collectors and Dealers are advised not to purchase until further information has been obtained.

In respect to paragraph 3 of the previous Circular issued by the Society, in which it was stated that the newly-issued surcharges for NORTH BORNEO AND LABUAN, of 4, 10, 20, and 30 cents on 1 dollar, red, “appear to be unnecessary,” it was not intended to condemn them. It is considered only right to publish the following letter, so that Collectors and Dealers may use their own discretion in this case :

“THE BRITISH NORTH BORNEO CO.,

“15, LEADENHALL STREET, LONDON, E.C.,

“19th June, 1895.”

“DEAR SIRs,—In reply to your letter of the 15th inst., we beg to say that in consequence of the alteration in the primary rates of postage from North Borneo, approved by the Bureau of the International Postage Union, as following on the decline in the value of the dollar, it was deemed advisable, for the economic purposes of the Borneo Post-office, and for the convenience of the public, to have stamps of the denominations mentioned by you, and a surcharged issue was adopted to save the delay and expense of preparing new dies.

“We are not philatelists, and the objection raised against the stamps, which arises apparently from a Collector's point of view, is not one that we feel called upon to consider.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) “BENJ. T. KINDERSLEY, *Secretary*.”

“MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING & CO., Ipswich.”

GORDON SMITH, *Secretary S. S. S. S.*

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,

Secretary to the Special Committee, London Philatelic Society.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C., 25th July, 1895.



THE
Seventh German Philatelic Congress at Mannheim.

BY HARRY HILCKES.



NCE again German Philatelists have met to discuss the burning questions of the day, and although the programme issued by the Committee was an unassuming one, the real questions touched on were of paramount importance, not only to German Philatelists, but also to the Philatelic world in general. It was, further, the earliest available opportunity for any body of Philatelists—immaterial whether dealers or collectors—to express their views on the recent action of the S.S.S.S. Two days were, as usual, devoted to the business, happily interwoven with social appointments, such as excursions to Heidelberg, &c. This latter part I will not touch, as being of little interest outside Germany.

Sunday, July 14th.—After the opening of the Congress by the President, Mr. Poenicke, two papers were read, one on “The Improvements of Exchange Packets,” by Mr. Glasewald, and another on “The Abuse of Philately,” by Mr. Motz. The former went into details which would lead too far to explain here, but the paper of Mr. Motz was of greater general interest. The pivot on which his paper turned was necessarily that of the speculative issues, and I am glad to say he was entirely at one with the steps taken in this country. The report on the *Vertr. Korrespondenz Blatt* by Mr. Umpfenbach, proved that this paper, although much attacked and maligned in many quarters, was a decided financial success, quite apart from its philatelic aspect. It is a confidential circular, issued by the German Philatelic Societies, giving besides internal news, detailed information of new forgeries and dangerous swindles, warnings against doubtful persons, either collectors or dealers, and in other ways diffusing similar knowledge to the philatelic world. It numbers over 1000 subscribers, mostly societies, and is self-supporting. Then followed two papers—on the Italian States by Mr. Risigari, and on the stamps of Heligoland by Mr. Rosenberg.

Monday, July 15th.—A special train took us to Heidelberg, that famous old University town, whose educational privileges are participated in by so many Englishmen. At half-past nine precisely, the delegate of the Globus Society of Berlin read some notes on the question, What steps should be taken against the ever-increasing swindles of private Exchange Clubs? He stated that if a man wished to obtain “stamps on the cheap,” nothing was easier than to start an Exchange Society, accepting anyone and everyone as members, and, after three or four months’ working, decamp with

the entire stock of sheets. A lively discussion arose on this question, which, in reality, was closely allied to Mr. Glasewald's paper of the first day, and it was decided to instruct the Frankfort Society to take up this matter, and report at the next year's Congress. The next motion was one of Mr. Glasewald's, to entrust the above-mentioned *Korrespondenz Blatt*, not to a society as hitherto, but to a firm or a single person. Happily, this motion was altogether lost, only two voting in its favour, and the Society of Mannheim was elected editor for the ensuing year. The next was really the motion of the day—"What are Collectors to do to protect themselves against Speculative Issues?" And, I must say, I have never seen 180 men of such unanimous opinion as those present, when this question was discussed. I took an opportunity to speak on behalf of the S.S.S.S., enjoining those present to work hand in hand with the London Committee. Of course, the old cry was raised about "retrospective steps," but those who raised this cry were soon convinced that we shall have our hands full in fighting the *new* issues. As soon as we have once stopped this ever-increasing supply, there is no doubt that the S.S.S.S. will have to revise, so to speak, the issues of the last five or six years, weeding out all those stamps which are purely speculative. Thereupon an Executive Committee was elected to get into touch with the English Committee, and a sum of from 600 to 700 marks was subscribed towards expenses. I have since learned that in New York a similar Committee was formed about the same time, and no doubt other countries will follow suit.

The next motion, to establish a central place of examination for stamps, was well received, as being a necessary measure, but had to be shelved in consequence of its impracticability—at any rate, at present. A somewhat amusing interpolation occurred just here, on the moot question of a normal Catalogue. The delegate supporting this motion was, however, soon convinced from the discussion that it was an utter impossibility to publish such a Catalogue *and make it pay*. The idea theoretically is certainly a good one, but fashion will always step in and ruin any calculation as regards any given stamp. This concluded the business, and after selecting Cologne for the next year's Congress, the meeting was closed by the President.

When I wrote my first report of these Congresses for the *London Philatelist*, some four years ago, I concluded with the hope that a similar meeting or convention, perhaps of an international character, should be called in London, and I feel almost sure that the weight of any resolutions of such a meeting, backed up by the London Philatelic Society, would be of most beneficial influence all over the world. Will there be no one to take the initiative?




Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

THE DIES OF THE DE LA RUE COLONIAL ISSUES.

E have received the following able and interesting letter from Mr. G. P. Grignard, which we have much pleasure in placing before our readers, as evidence of the careful Philatelic study given to our Colonial issues by our estimable neighbours across the Channel. It is no detriment to Mr. Grignard's discovery to state that these varieties had been noticed before, although, we believe, not in print. The credit of the discovery was, we believe, *in this country* first due to Mr. W. H. Phillips, of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and was imparted to us some months since, since which time we understand that the examination has been extended by that gentleman and others. As, however, it is intimated by Mr. Grignard that he intends publishing a paper hereon in a French Philatelic Journal,* there is no reason for withholding the information from our readers.

“17, RUE BERGÈRE, PARIS, 27th July, 1895.

“M. P. Castle, Esq., President Brighton and Sussex Philatelic Society.

“DEAR SIR,—I venture to send you the result of my modest observations on the type of stamps enclosed (English colonial, head in octagon, name above, value below, in one or two colours), hoping same may be new to you, and prove interesting to all my British *confrères* in philately.

“On the inspection, with the naked eye, of stamps enclosed, you will perceive that copies under the heading Type I., compared to those below, ‘Type II.,’ offer the following described differences:—

“1. Shade of ground darker in Type I.

“2. Diadem darker in Type I.

“3. Shadow lines of chin, and front end of bust, stop shorter in Type I.

“If you make use of a magnifying glass, you will discover minor differences in the knot of hair, ear, etc.; but the point of difference, which is at once noted at a glance, lies in the lined background. Beginning from the *bottom* line (forming the edge of the bottom side of hexagon), and looking up the fifth or sixth line under the bust, you will notice that in Type I. these lines are practically equidistant from one another. In Type II. the space between the second and third line, especially on the left-hand side close to the bust, is decidedly wider than the space next above.

“These differences are probably the result of retouching, although, if I am right, retouches have a tendency to darken or exaggerate the engraving, rather than to lighten the general aspect. However, I am not competent enough to decide.

“I notice the 5s. and 10s. St. Lucia are Type II. I have also the 1d., violet, St. Lucia in both types, but they are in sheets of sixty, Type I. being Plate No. 1, and Type II. being on Plate No. 3. On sheet enclosed, the 30 pa., $\frac{1}{2}$ p., 1 p., 2 p., and 4 p., C A, Cyprus, appear in both types. The latest 6 p. and 12 p. are Type I., while the 9, 18, and 45 p. are Type II.

* This has since appeared in the journal named.

"The second die, which I have called Type II., does not seem to have been employed prior to 1889, as all the stamps of this De la Rue type which have come under my notice from Nevis, Grenada, Antigua, Montserrat, Cyprus, Crown and CC, etc., are all of the Type I.; and it further seems that Type II. is taking the place of Type I., as the new values of St. Lucia, the recent Cyprus, 2½d., blue, Turk, appear in Type II., although plates from the first die exist, as is the case with the 2½d. Turk, which is in Type I. in the red-brown shade, the ½d., green, and 1d., lilac, St. Lucia, and perhaps other stamps. I would not be surprised if Die II. supersedes Die I. in the course of time.

"To finish with this item, I inform you that I may write a small article on this subject for the *Revue Philatelique*, without, however, alluding to my letters to you. In France we are not as much interested in these minor varieties as in England, which is a mistake.

"I also notice a difference in the 1d., red, Turk, which looks like a slip of an engraving tool.

Yours very faithfully,

"GEO. P. GRIGNARD.

"*Member Committee Société Philatélique Française, Société Française Timbrologie.*"

The stamps submitted to us by Mr. Grignard included specimens of Turks Island, Cyprus, and St. Lucia, of both dies of the current type. From an examination of the relative differences in the two dies, we were enabled to make the following additional points, which may, perhaps, be of assistance in differentiating the two varieties.

TYPE II.

The shading under the eye below the eyeball has a thicker horizontal line than in Type I.

The points of the crown are larger and more distinct.

The hair: The lowest lock of hair but one to the left of the ear has in this type an additional wave, whereas in Type I. this is absent, and thus leaves a white space.

The outline of the ear: This is also lightened in Type II., thus standing out more clearly from the shaded neck.

There are doubtless other equally salient points, but enough have been given to lead to further examination, and, we believe, increased interest, in the current colonial issues of this type.

DISCOVERIES.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—We have another variety of perforation to chronicle, thanks to Mr. A. Levy's continued explorations in this fruitful field of discovery. It consists of the 2d., orange (1877-80), with watermark SA and Crown close together, *perforated 11½ all round*. The same stamps perforated 10 × 11½ and 10 × 12½ in addition to the normal 10 are already known.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.—The following varieties exist in an imperforate unused state in the collection of a member of the London Philatelic Society. There is, of course, no evidence that they have ever been issued in this condition.

1861. Wmk. Swan.

1d., lake.
2d., blue.

|
rs., green.

4d., vermilion.
6d., purple-violet.

Occasional Notes.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*



PROPOSED SALE OF COLONIAL STAMPS IN ENGLAND.

WE are favoured by Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. with the following letter, which "at present" officially ignores the suggestion contained in our last issue. The information given to us was of a nature to command respect, and it may yet prove to be but a little "too previous."

"DOWNING STREET, LONDON,

"7th August, 1895.

"STAMPS—GENERAL.

"GENTLEMEN,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., and to inform you that we are not at present aware of any intention to entrust to us the sale of Postage Stamps of the British Colonies.

"I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"M. F. OMMANNEY.

"MESSRS. WHITFIELD KING & CO., Ipswich."



DANGEROUS FORGERIES.

WE called attention recently to the dangerous nature of some forgeries of the early Spanish issues, that had been widely put upon the market. We have now had some sent for our opinion by a well-known Continental dealer, and can but re-affirm our warning to collectors not to purchase these stamps from suspicious or even unknown sources. The specimens submitted to us were the 2 and 6 reales of the 1853 issue, both of which were excellently counterfeited. The thin quality of the paper, the postmarks, and the accurate colouring are well calculated to deceive the incautious purchaser, but a careful examination reveals several important details of the type, which we do not, however, intend to proclaim for the benefit of *messieurs les faussaires*!

Another enterprising gentleman, hailing from Vienna—we spare his name, although he deserves the gratuitous advertisement—wrote to us that, hearing we were purchasers of rare stamps, he had enclosed three—the 54 and 81 paras, Roumania, and the 8 c., green, British Guiana, 1850—for which he would accept £130. Not an unreasonable price if the stamps were genuine, but as they were the most "rank" and egregious forgeries, it savoured of a lack of energy on the part of the vendor, that in a city like Vienna, where the Roumanians are well understood, he should not have submitted the stamps for an opinion. The steps we have taken have, however, not increased the prophet's honour in his country, and we hope to give him still further publicity among his compatriots!

NOTES FROM AUSTRALIA.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

THE Letter Card question has been receiving considerable attention of late, and as a result some changes have been made. Notwithstanding the agreement arrived at by Postal Conference to exchange letter cards at 1½d. each, Victoria, after trying the experiment of the lower rate for some time, decided to abolish the letter card system altogether; but strong representations being made by business men that no objections would be raised to an increased rate if the convenience were continued, it was finally determined to raise the price to 2d. The 1d. letter card (then sold at 1½d.) was overprinted "Price Two-pence," in blue (27th April); and in May a new card with an impressed 2d. stamp was issued.

Queensland, having hung back from the reduced rate, then "took heart of grace" from Victoria's example, and issued a 2d. card, neatly engraved and printed at the Government engraver's establishment. It, however, bears the unnecessary inscription that "If anything be enclosed in this letter card, it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter." As the impressed stamp is the ordinary letter rate, it might fairly be permitted to contain anything within the weight limit of ½ oz.

New Zealand now appears to have raised the charge to 2d., the latest letter cards received bearing an additional ½d. adhesive stamp.

Fiji, generally slow to move, on account of its affairs being directed from Downing Street, has brought out a 1½d. letter card, printed at the Government Printing Office, Sydney. The stamp is of a similar type to the current adhesive, and the general design and colour of the card is the same as the New South Wales one.

Queensland has added the ½d. and 2d. adhesives to the series with outlined profile on white ground.

It is rumoured that New Zealand is about to issue a 1½d. adhesive stamp, but for what purpose I know not.

* * * * *

Disquieting statements have lately been made with regard to some recent transactions in the stamp printing office, Victoria. It is alleged that a certain individual has prevailed upon the authorities to print a sheet or two of the 1s. 6d., blue; that an imperforate sheet of the current 2d. adhesive was obtained from the same source; and that other issues, such as supplies of some obsolete stamps, of which the plates are still available, are to be made. Of course, these stamps are all produced in a perfectly *bonâ-fide* manner, and sold at face value, but there is such a thing as an enhanced value attached to an obsolete stamp, which disappears when the supply is liable to be replenished at any moment. The Victorian Society should make enquiries on the subject.

* * * * *

Regulations authorising the use of private post cards bearing adhesive stamps of the ordinary post card rate have been issued for New South

Wales. As, however, the official card is sold at face value, there is no reason to suppose that advantage will be taken of the new regulations to any extent.

* * * * *

A N.S.W. *Gazette* notice formally withdraws the 5d. impressed stamp for envelopes. This stamp has rather a curious history.

The Department of Public Instruction has a system of collecting remittances from teachers, throughout the Colony, in special registered envelopes. These were originally stamped with an impressed 6d. O.S. representing 2d. postage and 4d. registration. When the registration fee was reduced to 3d., application was made for a supply of envelopes with a 5d. stamp impressed. The Government printer prepared a *cliché* from the 4d. die, altered the value to 5d., and inserted the letters O.S. in plugs. Executive approval was obtained for this stamp, and it was duly gazetted. By some oversight, it was stated in the Postal Guide that envelopes would be impressed, for use of the public, with a 5d. stamp. No advantage was taken of the offer, and, in fact, no die was prepared other than the O.S. one. The O.S. system being now discontinued, the 5d. envelope stamp is limited to its official life of some three years.

* * * * *

The Victorian 1d. wrapper has just undergone a beneficial change in colour. It now appears in a very deep and handsome blue. I have always admired the severe simplicity of design of the current 1d. stamp, and with a re-drawn and better balanced bust, it would hold its own for appearance against all the other varying designs turned out by the same hand.

* * * * *

Mr. A. M. Campbell, late Postmaster at Tonga, has just passed through Sydney, on his way home. It appears that there were "wheels within wheels" in regard to that little matter of his dismissal. I saw the letter from King George II. conveying the decision as to his retirement from the service, and assigning the reason that he (Mr. Campbell) had lately embarked in a whaling venture, and civil servants were not permitted to indulge in private trading on their own account.

But this was not the true reason for the dismissal. During the reign of King George I., Mr. Campbell was commandant of the local forces, and the Heir Apparent was a lieutenant under him. It was Mr. Campbell's painful duty, under circumstances connected with the unauthorised punishment of a "soldier," to demand his lieutenant to deliver up his sword and accoutrements, by order of the King. On his accession, George II., who had not forgotten this little episode, took an early opportunity to pay off old scores.

With regard to the stamps which Mr. Campbell was afterwards called upon to account for, some \$9000 worth of 6d., yellow, were subsequently found in the official safe, and sold "for the benefit of the revenue."



SOUTH AFRICAN PROVISIONALS.

WE have received from a correspondent at Pretoria copies of the *Press* of the 18th and 23rd July, published in that town, which contain the following comments on the provisional stamps chronicled by us in this issue:

"A STAMP FAMINE.

"The Postmaster-General informs us that unless a fresh supply of stamps arrives before it is expected, a great many of less value will have to be surcharged. The average monthly issue of stamps (under 1s.) is as follows: $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 207,000; 1d., 511,000; 2d., 260,000; $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 39,000; 3d., 13,000; 4d., 18,000; 6d., 88,700; 1s., 98,000. Now at the present moment there are no 1s., 6d., 3d., or 2d. stamps in stock, the last issue having been respectively made on June 1st, May 11th, May 18th, and June 25th. There are 90,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps and 210,000 1d. stamps in stock, but these being abnormally used at the present moment, surcharging will necessarily ensue before the arrival of the next consignment, which is due on the 26th inst.

"Under the heading, 'Speculative Issues, Natal,' the *London Philatelist* for June contains a most Pharisaical attack on the South African Colonies and States for being 'culpably negligent' with regard to their stamp supply. Natal is made to act as a scapegoat for her neighbours. The writer launches forth as follows: 'In these days of rapid communication there is no occasion for ever running out of the stock of stamps. A colonial postmaster, in our opinion, is neglectful and censurable in (1) allowing any stamp to run out of stock; (2) in creating any provisional stamps, except in large quantities, and all exactly similar; (3) in promoting the abnormal sale of any provisional issue.' The writer concludes by saying that it is high time a stop was put to these 'freaks upon currency; *i.e.* unused postage stamps.' It is all very well for London philatelists to wax indignant over what they call South African negligence, but until stamps are printed in this country there is every liability of the supply temporarily running out. As regards the Transvaal, it has always been the custom to keep a sufficient supply in stock, as, on the whole, consignments have arrived at very regular intervals. During the past couple of months, however, business has increased in an unprecedented manner, and the demand for stamps of all descriptions has surpassed the most optimistic calculations, hence the necessity of surcharging. If the writer in the *London Philatelist* possessed but the faintest idea of South Africa, he would be able to understand the position of the P.M.G., and would not be so ready with his Pecksniffian advice. We may add that the surcharged stamps have been submitted to the Postmaster-General, and will now be issued. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. one will do duty for the 1d. stamp, whilst the 6d. revenue stamp will be used for postal and telegraphic purposes."

The writer of these paragraphs will probably be still less pleased with the remarks we have ventured to make upon the duties of Postmasters when he has read the July number of the *London Philatelist*. We cannot help thinking that it is a case of *qui s'excuse s'accuse*, as our comments were confined to *Colonial* Postmasters, nor did we allude to the South African Republic. Those of us who are in the habit of frequenting the City of London are not unmindful of the gigantic strides South Africa is making, the state of the London Mining Market being alone convincing of the great commercial and mining interests that are generally recognised on the Stock Exchange as the "Kaffir Market." We can therefore readily understand that there

might frequently be abnormal demands upon the postal issues at Pretoria, and it is therefore quite probable that these two provisionals are *bonâ-fide* required. It should not, however, be difficult for the Post-office authorities in the Transvaal to keep a stock in excess of ordinary requirements, especially of the lower values. Suppose that a rule was made, that in the values most used the stock should never be allowed to be diminished below three months' normal consumption, with Pretoria within three weeks' post from Europe, and by the friendly aid of the cable to summon new supplies, there should be no possibility of ever running so short of stock as to necessitate the creation of provisionals. There seems also in the present, as in other cases, no idea of "hiding one's light under a bushel." In ordinary life, when a makeshift has to be resorted to, it is not proclaimed on the housetops; whereas in the case of most provisionals the news is spread broadcast, and the stamps are in all the leading dealers' hands with a "punctuality and despatch" worthy of the best instincts of the commercial traveller. All of which causes the collector to think!



PHILATELIC EXHIBITION AT IPSWICH.

WE understand that the British Association for the Advancement of Science will hold their Annual Meeting at Ipswich this year, from the 11th to the 18th September. That interesting old county town will necessarily be *en fête* during this period, and sundry and numerous arrangements have been made to enhance the enjoyment of the very numerous visitors expected. Among these a Philatelic Exhibition has been proposed, and, under the able and energetic auspices of Mr. C. Whitfield King, bids fair to achieve a marked success. The Exhibition, which is conceived especially in the interest of the members of the Association, of whom over 1000 will attend, will be held at Mr. King's house, which is already well known, from a philatelic aspect, as possessing a room artistically adorned with a mosaic of unused postage stamps. Numerous promises of support by exhibitors have been received by Mr. King from prominent collectors and other sources, and we are enabled to state that, from the Mauritius Post-office stamps downwards, there will be on view a magnificent assortment of the rarest and choicest specimens extant. Several well-known collectors have expressed their intention of visiting the Exhibition, and their example is one that will probably be followed by many votaries of Philately. Mr. Whitfield King has taken every precaution to provide for the safety of the valuables consigned to his care, and they are assured against all risk of fire, sun, or theft. The Exhibition will be open each day of the week, between the hours of eleven and six, and it only remains for us to express the hope that it may achieve the success that its promoter has worked so hard to attain.



Reviews.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE ALBUM.*



S implied by the title, these volumes are intended for the special behoof of the collector of Great Britain and Colonies, and we may say at the outset are admirably calculated to serve his purpose. The books are of large oblong shape, 12 inches by 10, the letterpress and descriptive portion being on the reverse side of the pages facing the stamps, for the reception of which lined squares are provided, correspondingly numbered with the lists. A pleasing innovation is, that in the great majority of cases the pages are not overcrowded, the spaces being grouped in the centre with ample room for additions while, beyond this, blank pages are inserted wherever advisable. Great Britain heads the list, and gives abundant evidence of careful compilation, the dates of approval of the various plates being given, as well as places for the Fiscal stamps, rendered postally available by the Act of 1882. We are glad to note that the system of arrangement adopted is that of values, commencing with the line-engraved stamps according to priority of issue, in following which arrangement a collection of English stamps gains cohesion and interest. We note also that the native printed Indian States are omitted, in contradistinction to those surcharged on the Imperial Issue for use beyond the respective States. The European, Asiatic, and African Colonies, in respective order, complete the first volume, while the second embraces those of the West Indies, America, and Australia. As an evidence of the advanced specialism to which these albums are devoted, we may cite the fact that spaces and descriptions are given for no less than 62 varieties of Sydney Views, while the difficult lists of some of the West Indian Islands, such as Trinidad, etc., bespeak a laudable endeavour to assist the specialiser in bringing information up to date.

Taken altogether, a happy mean is arrived at between the Philatelic "bloater" and the "single-specimen man," and we can conceive of no more interesting task than the gradual filling up of the squares in these albums. Convinced, therefore, that they will be of real utility to many collectors, we congratulate Mr. S. C. Skipton and Mr. W. Brown on their labours, and wish them all success. We should add that paper and printing are excellent, and that the albums are handsomely bound in half-calf, with gilt edges.

MESSRS. SENF'S CATALOGUE.†

We are indebted to Messrs. H. Hilckes and Co., Limited, who are sole agents for the sale in Great Britain, for a copy of the long-expected "green

* *The British Empire Postage Stamp Album.* 2 Vols. Compiled by S. C. SKIPTON. Wm. Brown & Co., Salisbury.

† *Gebrüder Senf's Illustrated Postage Stamp Catalogue for 1895.* Harry Hilckes & Co., Limited, 64, Cheapside, London, E.C.

Senf." The delay in its appearance will be accounted for when it is noted that the new edition extends to 110 pages beyond its brown predecessor. It is indeed a marvellous tribute to the excellence of Liepsic's printing and bookbinding energy to contemplate this little (!) work, with 788 pages of matter, besides advertisements, and yet easily to be disposed of in a side pocket.

At the outset it is evident that a systematic attempt has been made to remedy the glaring defect of the last issue, *i.e.*, the incorrect pricing of a large number of stamps, notably those of the German States in particular, and of unused in general. In the present instance a far greater approximation to the truth has been arrived at, nor can perfection in such a matter of obvious impossibility as pricing every stamp be expected. In the very unlikely contingency of every stamp being correctly priced by the authors, before the work appeared in print many would have been shewn to be wrong by the operations of the market. In the present instance, Messrs. Senf state these quotations are for averaged—but undamaged—stamps. "Very fine, rather more," as they say on the Corn Market!

As to its general utility and excellence, we have nothing more to say than we have on previous occasions, in cordially recommending it to all our friends as a valuable book of reference. The sale of the work is so deservedly wide that its merits speak for itself, and we can only wish an even extended circulation for the "green Senf" of 1895.

MEKEEL'S STANDARD CATALOGUE.*

We are in receipt of Part Three of this Catalogue, already reviewed in these columns. The present instalment completes the Mexican Revenue Stamps (Mr. Vincent Crummies, of pious memory, may serve as a prototype of faithfulness to a certain object!). Lists follow of the Confederate Provisional Issues, the Western Express Franks, and the United States' Local Stamps, which should be invaluable to American collectors. The Match and Medicine stamps follow; the concluding portion of the work—over 60 pages—being occupied with the envelopes and wrappers by N. W. Chandler. The Catalogue, as a whole, extends to 578 pages, and necessarily represents an amount of work that cannot fail, in many ways, to be of signal service alike to the young Collector and the advanced Philatelist.

* MEKEEL'S *Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World*. Third Part. C. H. Mekeel, Stamp and Publishing Co., Section C, St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A. 1895.



New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—We have withheld our chronicle of a long list of adhesives and stationery issued for this place, waiting for more news as to the *bonâ-fide* of the issue; now we find that it is a series supplied by the Crown agents to a new British (?) Colony of that name. It appears that few have seen the stamps yet! but we understand that the design is composed of Arms supported by two negroes, and the inscription "POSTAGE & REVENUE," "BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA," with the value in a separate colour to the remainder of the design (except on the 1d.): the values are said to be as follows:

<i>Adhesives.</i>	1d., black
	2d. " and green.
	4d. " orange.
	6d. " blue.
	1/- " rose.
	2/6 " violet.
	3/- " yellow.
	5/- " olive.
	£1 " orange.
	£10 " vermilion.
	£25 " blue-green.
<i>Reg. Envelope.</i>	4d., blue, sizes F and H2.
<i>Post Cards.</i>	½d., black and orange, 121 × 87 mm.
	1d. " 136 × 85 "
	2d. " "

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—Mr. J. N. Marsden writes:

"In Mombassa—British East Africa Co.—the 3 annas has been again surcharged ½ anna, but under a different postmaster. The initials of the last were, I think, 'A. D.' The specimen I enclose has three letters, which I cannot well make out. These provisionals were in use in March last."

The initials on the specimen sent by Mr. Marsden resemble "K. C. R.," and the date is March 22.

FIJI.—It is reported by the *Australian Philatelist* that post and letter cards are

being introduced here. Only the letter card has, as yet, been seen; it bears a stamp of the same type as the current adhesive, but the foliage obscuring the upper part of the circle has been removed, and an alteration made in the value.

Letter Card. 1½d., red on drab.

GOLD COAST.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. write:

"We have just received some £1 stamps of the new type of Zululand, brown on red. They are the same type and colour as the 20s. Gold Coast, only they have the value printed '£1,' and not '20s.'"

GREAT BRITAIN.—We are indebted to a correspondent, signing himself "X," for specimens of the stamped-to-order envelopes in which whereas one has nine dots in the date holes of the stamp, the other (a similar value) has only five. On page 110 we chronicled a suppression of the dates, and a substitution of the dots, which, we believe, took place in 1894, but whether the five dot die is a still later alteration we do not know. We have not seen the variety mentioned, elsewhere as yet—can any one enlighten us as to the correct explanation? Our correspondent mentions that there has been a similar change in the 2½d. and the 1s. values, and possibly in others as well.

NATAL.—It is now quite certain that the so-called *error* on the late surcharge of Half Penny on 6d. is merely a broken H. We have carefully examined a copy, and although it bears a close resemblance to an E, it reveals itself to a strong glass.

A vertical pair of late surcharge of "HALF" on 1d. has been seen, in which one stamp

had double surcharge, and the other none at all. The *M. J.* gives an interesting list of stamps surcharged since 1876, which we think well to put on record.

Date of Issue.	Description.	Quantity Issued.
No date given.	1d., yellow, surcharged "Postage," 14 mm. long . . .	24,000
Feb. 12, 1877.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d., red, surcharged " $\frac{1}{2}$," and the word "half" in two varieties . . .	23,760
Oct. 7, 1877.	Halfpenny on 1d., yellow . . .	56,640
Oct. 10, 1877.	One Penny on 6d., violet . . .	234,960
Feb. 12, 1879.	One Penny on 6d., rose . . .	96,000
Jan. 26, 1885.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d., red . . .	53,040
April, 1891.	$2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 4d., brown . . .	47,994
March 12, 1895.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d., violet . . .	216,000
March 18, 1895.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1d., red, about 1,000,000	

NEW ZEALAND.—We felt quite ashamed at having last month to chronicle a change in the colour of the Letter Card, so soon after its issue, and now hear of quite a collection of colours and perforations. Is this usually respectable Colony only using up remainders of card? or is it fishing for first place on the British Colonial list of the S.S.S.S.

Letter Cards.

- $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., mauve on green, grey-blue, grey-granite, greenish cream (two shades), cream, fawn, buff, yellow, pale yellow; perf. 10.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., mauve on pale bluish green, pink; perf. 11.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., mauve on greenish cream (a third shade); perf. 13

QUEENSLAND.—A correspondent of *The Australian Philatelist* informs them that the 1d. was *not printed* on unwatermarked paper. This is not very sure proof. Perhaps some of our Australian *confrères* would approach the Brisbane officials on the subject.

Mr. Cooper sends the *Ph. J. of G. B.* a new letter card of 2d., of similar design to the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. post card, but without the Postal Union inscriptions. On the back are the Colonial Arms, and below an inscription reading:

QUEENSLAND.

This card may pass through the post to any place within Queensland, New Guinea, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, and Fiji.

If anything be enclosed in this Letter Card, it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter.

We have the 2d. value with head on plain ground.

Adhesive. 2d., blue (new type).
Letter Card. 2d., blue on blue.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Perak*.—The 2 c. of the tiger type is now printed in orange.

Adhesive. 2 c., orange.

VICTORIA.—The 1d. letter card, which has been sold at, and bears the inscription, three halfpence, has been surcharged, owing to an increase in the postage, "PRICE TWO PENCE," in blue, below the words "LETTER CARD." The *Ph. J. of G. B.* says that 45,000 of these cards were issued on April 27th, and that towards the end of May the 1d. stamp was removed, and replaced by a stamp of 2d. of the current adhesive value.

Letter Cards. 2d., in blue, on 1d., carmine on grey.
 2d., carmine on grey.

EUROPE.

BAVARIA.—A new value has been added to the Postage Due series.

Postage Due. 2 pf., red and grey.

ITALY.—A new type has been engraved for the 20 c. value. It is somewhat similar to the late 45 c.

The $7\frac{1}{2} + 7\frac{1}{2}$ c. postcard has the date '95.

Adhesive. 20 c., deep yellow.
Post Card. $7\frac{1}{2} + 7\frac{1}{2}$ c., carmine on rose (dated '95).

ROUMANIA.—*Le T.-P.* chronicles the 15 bani Letter Card, bearing stamp of the type of the new adhesives.

Letter Card. 15 bani, rose on buff.

AMERICA.

UNITED STATES.—The *A. J. of Ph.* chronicles the issue of the 30 c. and 50 c. Postage Due stamps in the new type of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing Co.

Unpaid. 30 c., deep claret.
 50 c., " "

We have the 5, 8, and 10 cents with watermark to chronicle.

Adhesive. 5 c., brown (with wmk.).
 8 c., plum (").
 10 c., green (").

OTHER COUNTRIES.

ABYSSINIA.—Here is an interesting communication, for which we are indebted to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co.:—"The authenticity of the Abyssinian stamps is now beyond question. To-day we have received a letter (not registered) from Entotto, in Abyssinia, posted on May 5th, and prepaid with three Abyssinian stamps and one of Djibouti. It is addressed to us in Amharic and in French, and took over six weeks on the journey from Entotto to Djibouti by camel post." Although of some importance, we cannot see that the above fully justifies the Abyssinian series of labels,

as the Abyssinian stamps may have been put on in Djibouti, and the postage home paid by the label of that country. We must confess to being *very* sceptical to the issues of King Menelik!

ORANGE FREE STATES.—In a letter received from the Postmaster at Bloemfontein, dated June 14, 1895, and received by a correspondent to the *M. J.*, the issue of the 2d. adhesive with the overprint "2d." (see page 112) is contradicted.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—A correspondent kindly sends note of two new provisionals, and writes—

"I hereby beg to enclose for your information and inspection a sheet of sixty each of 1d., surcharged on 2½d., postage stamps, and 6d. revenue stamps, reprinted 'postzegel,' of which respectively about 900,000 and 90,000 had to be reprinted, in consequence of the supply, ordered from Europe in April last, not coming to hand within the expected time.

"The last of the following values were distributed on the hereinafter-mentioned dates: 6d., May 11th; 3d., May 18th; 1s., June 1st; 2d., June 25th. As other values had to be issued instead, the whole stock was affected, and the Postmaster-General decided to limit the surcharging to 1d. and 6d. only, so as to have as few varieties as possible, the new stamps being expected daily."

The stamps in question are (1) the current 2½d., surcharged in large, thick, slanting figures, in bluish-green, "1d.," with a thick horizontal bar traversing the value at the base; (2) the 6d., rose, fiscal stamp, inscribed "Zegelregt" above and "Zespence" below, with "6d." as a central device, within a

wavy-lined circle, surrounded by the coloured inscription, on white ground, "Zuid Afrik-aansche republiek;" the balance of the design consisting of conventional ornamentation. The word "Postzegel," in thick upright block capitals, printed across the lower portion of the stamp in green, converts its use from postal to fiscal. Both stamps are on medium white wove paper. So far as the portions of the sheets submitted to us are concerned, the surcharges seem void of any varieties or "errors," a circumstance which, in our humble judgment, militates considerably in their favour as being a "legitimate issue."

There will be found some further Press comments on these stamps under Occasional Notes (page 216).

1d., green surcharge, on 2½d., violet (current type).
6d. " " "postzegel," on 6d., fiscal, rose; perf. 11½.

TONGA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. kindly send us the following letter:

"NUKUALOFA, TONGA,
"June 10th, 1895.

"DEAR SIR,—I confirm my letter of March 20th. The new issue I then referred to has not yet come to light. There were actually stamps struck off, but His Tongan Majesty was not satisfied with his likeness and they were cancelled, and the engravers are trying their hand again. In the meantime, to save the postmaster from having to frank letters, they have provided him with a small *temporary* issue of surcharges, quite a new set; and as the issue is so small, I have thought well to invest the balance at your credit entirely in it, which I hope will be satisfactory to you. The stamps and invoice are enclosed herewith, and consist of the 2d. lilac with, respectively, 1d., 1½d., 2½d., 7½d., and 'surcharge,' in red block caps, vertically."

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

CORRECTION.—*List of Members.* Name omitted in error, RANCK, H.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT.

Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—A. LEVY.

THE fifth Annual Meeting was held at 9a, Princess Square, on June 5th, 1895. Present—Messrs. Barrett, Stevens, Tucker, Milton, Mayne, Harvey, Millmann, Honeysett, Leleux, Buchan, Miller, Levy.

Mr. F. A. Cocks, R.N., was elected a member.

It was resolved that a gold pencil-case be presented to Mr. William Earl, in recognition of the services rendered by him to the Society.

The Hon. Secretary read a report of the doings of the Society during the past session, details of which have already been reported. The Exchange Secretary reported a large increase in the transactions of his department, caused by the inclusion of corresponding members.

The accounts were audited and passed.

The following officers were re-elected for the ensuing session :

President—G. R. Barrett.

Vice-President—R. T. Stevens.

Exchange Secretary—H. Tucker, jun.

Hon. Sec. and Treasurer—A. Levy.

Committee—J. Milton, E. Millmann, W. E. Harvey, W. J. W. Miller.

Cordial votes of thanks to the officers for their services during the past session concluded the business of the evening.

ASHER LEVY, *Hon. Sec.*

190, UNION STREET, PLYMOUTH.

THE NEW YORK PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE last regular monthly meeting of the Society, previous to the summer vacation, was held in its rooms, No. 25, Ann Street, on the evening of June 17th, 1895.

After the minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved, Mr. C. B. Krouth, 339, Forty-fourth Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., was presented for election as a member of the Society. The tellers reported Mr. Krouth as elected by unanimous vote.

A letter was received from the National Philatelic Society, in reference to the sale of periodical and postage-due stamps, and asking the Philatelic Society, New York, to co-operate with them in petitioning the Postmaster-General to place all these stamps on sale. After a thorough discussion, the original resolution was amended to read as follows :

"Whereas there is a patriotic desire on the part of American stamp collectors to possess sets of all stamps issued by our Government in unused form, especially the new series of postage-due stamps ;

"Whereas there seems to be no valid reason why these stamps should not be sold at face value by the Post Office Department, as they eventually all pass into the hands of the public ; and

"Whereas the sale of these postage-due stamps would afford a very considerable source of revenue to the Government ; therefore be it

"Resolved by the Philatelic Society, New York, that the Postmaster-General be re-

spectfully requested to carefully consider the advisability of putting the same on sale," and was adopted by unanimous vote.

Another communication from the National Philatelic Society was read, in reference to the appointment of a provisional committee, to consider the subject of speculative stamps. The National Philatelic Society appointed a committee of nine gentlemen, seven of whom are members of the Philatelic Society, New York.

The following resolution was presented by Mr. Hobby, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, and passed unanimously.

"Resolved, that the Philatelic Society, New York, endorse the action of the National Philatelic Society, and await the result of the committee's action, to see if there is a necessity of appointing a permanent committee of the Philatelic Society, New York, to examine the status of future issues."

Mr. Davison read an article on "The grills of U.S. stamps," illustrating the same by many copies of the stamps. Mr. Davison has had the good fortune to make a number of new discoveries in this direction, and his paper was listened to with great interest.

Upon motion, it was resolved that the thanks of the Society be given to Mr. Davison for his able paper, and that the same be printed in the *Metropolitan Philatelist*.

Adjourned at 10 p.m.

F. A. NAST, *Secretary*.

THE VICTORIA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

AT the annual meeting of the above Society, held on June 26th, 1895, the following officers were elected for 1895-96 :

President—Mr. A. S. Whelan.

Vice-President—Mr. J. Davis.

Librarian—Mr. C. B. Down.

Committee—

Messrs. W. Davies, F. R. Godfrey, S. E. Innes, and B. Marks.

Secretary, Treasurer, and Exchange Supt.—

W. Brettschneider, 312, Flinders Street, Melbourne.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Your Committee begs to submit to you its third annual report, and congratulates you on the position of the Society, both numerically and financially.

The number of members now on the roll is fifty-nine, comprised of forty-six town and thirteen corresponding members. Thirteen new members were elected during the year, and four resigned. Eleven ordinary monthly meetings have been held, at which the average attendance was fifteen.

The balance to the credit of the Society in the hands of the treasurer is £19 7s. 9d., which is very satisfactory, considering the increased expenditure incurred in connection with the exhibition, binding of periodicals, &c.

Your Committee deplores the fact that the number of papers read was very limited, and would again urge the advisability of diffusing Philatelic knowledge through this medium.

The papers contributed were: "M. P. Castle's Collection of Australian Stamps" and "Samuel Calvert's Machine for the Perforation of Stamps," by Mr. D. H. Hill; "The Best Methods for Cleaning Soiled Stamps," by Mr. W. Brettschneider; "The Plate Numbers of the Stamps of Great Britain," by Mr. F. R. Godfrey.

Your Committee thoroughly revised the general rules of the Society, and the fact of their having been confirmed by the members with little or no alteration, proves your appreciation of their labour.

The red-letter day in the existence of the Society is without doubt Saturday, Septem-

ber 15th, 1894, when "The First Exhibition in Australia of Postage Stamps, &c.," was held in the Vienna Café, the success of the said exhibition being far beyond anticipations. There were exhibited about 10,000 postage stamps, 400 post cards, and 700 envelopes, and the attendance numbered over 600 visitors. Your Committee hopes to hold these public exhibitions annually, and relies on the hearty co-operation of members to make them as successful as the inaugural one.

Ten Committee meetings were held during the year, at which the attendance was: Mr. D. H. Hill, 9; Mr. C. Hesselman, 6; Mr. A. S. Whelen, 6; Mr. W. Brettschneider, 7; Mr. W. Davies, 8; Mr. A. J. Derrick, 6; Mr. W. R. Rundell, 3; Mr. C. B. Donne, 7; Mr. J. Davis (Secretary), 9.

Nine exchange books were circulated amongst members, containing 377 sheets, valued at £378 3s. 9d., and eight books were returned, from which stamps were taken to the value of £96 12s. 11d. The commission to the Society on these eight books was £4 17s. 11d.

The library has been considerably added to by donations from members, and now contains 53 volumes, and members have freely availed themselves of their use for reference.

In order to popularise the monthly meetings, a quarterly exhibition of collections has been introduced, which bids fair to improve the attendances at these meetings.

In conclusion, your Committee trusts that the Society will continue to prosper in the future as it has done in the past.

The Market.

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

Summer and vacations bring a lull, for the time being, to our philatelic men of the hammer, and we have one sale to record, held by the above firm on July 31st. No very special lots were down for sale, and the chief characteristic appears to be that seventeen lots of the late Oil Rivers trash were not sold.

	£	s.	d.
Ceylon, imperf., 8d., brown . . .	31	0	0
Ditto, 6d., purple-brown on blue, unused . . .	5	10	0
Ditto, star wmk., perf., 8d., brown . . .	5	0	0
New South Wales, imperf., 5d., green, unused . . .	6	15	0
Ditto, Registered, <i>rouletted</i> . . .	4	15	0
Western Australia, 6d., purple-brown on <i>bleute</i> , unused . . .	4	17	6
British Guiana, 1862, provisional, 2 c., black on yellow, No. 24 on plate, border of grapes, and error "PCSTAGE" . . .	10	10	0

Mauritius, 1848, 2d., blue . . .	5	0	0
Cape, woodblock, 4d., light-blue . . .	3	12	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., plum, no margins . . .	9	10	0
Nevis, 4d., rose on greyish paper, unused . . .	4	10	0

AUCTION AT AMSTERDAM.

WE gather from the *Berlin Briefmarken Zeitung* that a successful auction of stamps has recently been held at the interesting chief town of the Netherlands. It appears that some 10,000 stamps were disposed of, the aggregate sum realised being about £4000. The highest price realised was for the 3 lire Tuscany, which attained the prodigious price of £40. The 1s., prune, Turks Island, also fetched a high figure, as did a somewhat mysterious "6d. English stamp of 1872, of which only 960 copies exist." Our philatelic "army in Flanders" do not seem to emulate their historic predecessors in "giving too little"!

THE
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No. 45.

The Modern Catalogue.



PUNGENT criticism of the prices in the Senf Catalogue of 1895 has appeared in the columns of our contemporary, *The Monthly Journal*, over the signature of Mr. C. J. Phillips, the guiding spirit of the firm of Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and the publishers of a rival Catalogue. It is no part of our rôle to take sides with "Codlin" or "Short," nor to adjudicate upon the issues that will inevitably be raised, that if one firm prices according to its buying requirements, another bases its values on the goods it especially wants to sell. It is however, obvious that within due limits the latter is much the less assailable proceeding of the two; while in the former case, if the inadequate pricing arise from any cause but ignorance, it constitutes a grave breach of commercial honesty.

In the interests of collectors, and in view of the marvellous circulation and influence of these two great and excellent Catalogues, we would, however, remind our readers that in our review of Messrs. Senf's Catalogue for 1894, we animadverted upon the great discrepancies between the prices that they quoted and the true values. This view has been amply annotated in the prices offered and attained as reported in almost every Journal in Europe, and Messrs. Senf have profited by the torrent of remonstrances to a very considerable extent in the 1895 issue of their Catalogue, as mentioned in our review in the last number of the *London Philatelist*. The Leipsic firm have certainly improved upon their 1894 effort on the financial aspect, but Messrs. Stanley Gibbons have "gone one better," and there can be no doubt but that in the vast majority of cases the prices cited are those of the day. The principal fault lies in putting extreme prices upon minor varieties; but, on the whole,

as a financial guide, the English Catalogue is to be preferred, as *no attempt is made to price everything*.

This constitutes the main factor of the case, and the important question therein raised must be our excuse for dilating upon a side of Philately that is somewhat foreign to our domain. *Imprimis*, there can be no question of the vital necessity of a reliable Catalogue. On this arises the point of what constitutes reliability, the answer being, accuracy of information on every point connected with the stamps described. Specimens that are of doubtful authenticity, or of dubious postal life, are carefully denoted, in order not to mislead the reader, nor would any stamp be inserted on surmise or hypothesis. Why should not the same rule apply, therefore, to the prices? What possible grounds can induce a publisher to price a stamp that he has never possessed, or perhaps never seen, or perhaps even never heard of? Answer there is none. The attempt to price every stamp, used and unused, is ludicrous in the extreme; it can only lead to the confusion and deception of the collector, and to the betrayal of the ignorance of the compiler. It is absolutely impossible to correctly and conscientiously price any great rarity, whether arising from face type, or merely from its unused condition; such specimens only appear like angels' visits, and their value is entirely dependent upon their particular environment. Our true ideal of Catalogue and Price List combined, is one that prices all the stamps that its publishers may have to sell, or may reasonably expect to acquire. Anything beyond this is purely hypothetical, and calculated to mislead, which is the one thing a Catalogue should labour to avoid. M. J. B. Moens, of Brussels, in his splendid and world-renowned Lists, has even gone beyond this, as he has always declined to price any stamps that he did not actually possess. The notification that such and such a variety was *épuisé* has often been a blow to the would-be buyer, and has always been followed by the elimination of the prices in the succeeding issue of his work. This example is one well worthy of example in future Catalogues. These books are issued for a dual purpose; the first, to help collectors to a true knowledge of what exists, and, the second, to supply them with as many varieties as possible. It follows, therefore, that the pricing of "unattainables" is not only of no service, but (by creating false impressions) is a hindrance to the attainment of either of these objects.

The importance of the financial aspect of Philately to its general well-being cannot be gainsaid. The interests therein of the leading firms of Publishers are even more patent, and it therefore behoves all those firms who aspire to be the leaders of the Trade, to carefully weigh their position, and to do nothing either to the detriment of Philately, or in any way derogatory of the confidence in which they are justly held by their customers.



Further Notes on the First Four Pence of Western Australia.

By E. D. BACON.



It has frequently occurred in Philately that, as soon as someone has written upon a subject that is more or less new to collectors, a most unexpected find of the stamps treated of, or some fresh information bearing upon their history, is forthcoming, to either confirm or disprove the theories put forward.

The latest case in point refers to the articles on the first Four Pence of Western Australia, by Mr. M. P. Castle and myself, which were published in the *London Philatelist* for January and February last. No sooner had these articles appeared than Mr. W. T. Wilson became the fortunate possessor of two large "blocks" of these stamps, which, if either Mr. Castle or I had been able to examine at the time we wrote, would have been of the greatest assistance to us.

Mr. Wilson has kindly given me an opportunity of inspecting the two blocks,* and I think a short description of them, with the conclusions I have arrived at concerning the method adopted for the printing of this value, may help to solve some of the points, connected with the production of these stamps, that still require clearing up.

The first block consists of sixty specimens, arranged in twelve horizontal rows of five stamps each, with marginal paper and "deckle" edges of the sheet at the left, top, and bottom sides. The second block, which, from the shade of blue and the appearance of the paper, evidently belongs to the same sheet, contains fifty-nine specimens, arranged in the same order as the other block, the bottom row having the last stamp to the right cut off. This second block has marginal paper and "deckle" edges of the sheet at top and bottom. The "swan" watermarks on both blocks are sideways, and the stamps in the first vertical row of the first block are watermarked partly with the marginal lines, and also with the letters of the word "POSTAGE." The stamps in the bottom row of both blocks are watermarked in a similar way, but the top-row stamps are clear of the watermarked lines, &c., which fall on the margin of the sheet, as they were intended to. The paper margins round the first block prove that it formed the left-hand portion of the sheet; and from the marginal watermarked inscription, it is possible to say that the second block formed the third portion, from the

* Since the writing of this article, Mr. W. T. Wilson has very kindly had plates made of these most interesting sheets for the purposes of this paper, and we are therefore enabled to present our readers with the full illustrations, by the aid of which they will be better able to follow Mr. Bacon's descriptions.—ED.

left side of the same sheet. There can be no doubt, therefore, that the whole sheet was composed of 240 stamps, in twelve horizontal rows of twenty, without being divided into panes, and that it thus corresponded with the arrangement of the One Penny value. The colour of the stamps is blue, of a rather pale shade, and the sheet seems not to have been gummed.

An examination of the two portions of the sheet shows that the stamps were transferred to the stone in batches of sixty, as the following data will prove. The fifth stamp from the top, in the first row of both blocks, has a short line, and another at right angles, beneath the letter "P" of "Pence." The seventh of the same row has a line under the first "e" of "Pence," and two dots under the second "e." The eleventh stamp from the top, in the second row, has a dot under the "u" of "Four," and a short line under the "n" of "Pence." The eighth stamp from the top, in the fourth row, has a line across the right foot of the first "a" of "Australia"; and the seventh stamp from the top, in the fourth row, is similarly out of line in both blocks. Numerous other instances of a corresponding nature might also be adduced.

Although there can be no doubt that the stamps were transferred in batches of sixty, certain differences are to be found in the two blocks. In the left one, the eighth stamp from the top, in the first row, is out of line; while in the other block this stamp is more evenly placed, and there is a line under the letters "Fo," and extending partly under the "u" of "Four," which is not found under the stamp in the left block. The ninth and tenth stamps from the top, in the fifth row of the second block, correspond with the illustrations* Nos. 6 and 5 respectively, and No. 11 in the same row corresponds with illustration* No. 3, whereas in the left block all these three stamps are quite normal. To quote one more instance—in the left block, the sixth specimen from the top, in the fourth row, has the letters "Pe" and the first half of the "n" of "Pence" only $1\frac{3}{4}$ mm. high, instead of 2 mm., thus adding a new frame variety to those described by Mr. Castle. In the other block this stamp will be found to be of the regular type.

These particulars show that the lithographic stone used for this printing of the stamps was made by taking four transfers from what may be called a matrix stone, upon which sixty specimens had previously been arranged in twelve horizontal rows of five—a process similar to that employed in India for some of the lithographic stamps printed in Calcutta in 1854. It is equally certain that some at least of the frame varieties arise either in taking the four several transfers from the matrix stone, or in the fixing of them on to the second stone, the paper not having been flattened out quite evenly in one case or the other.

It will be seen that the question of the frame varieties is further complicated by the statement, in the Society's *Oceania Catalogue*, that a part sheet of this value examined had the stamps arranged in blocks of ten horizontal rows of six. If no mistake was made in this description, and it is hardly conceivable that one could have been, the importance of Mr. Wilson's blocks becomes again exemplified, as we now possess evidence that more than one

* *Vide* the "*London Philatelist*," January, 1895.

lithographic stone was used during the life of this Four Pence stamp. From the fact of there being two different transfers for printing, and because frame varieties exist also in the blocks described in the *Oceania Catalogue*, it seems most probable that certain of the varieties are only to be found in one or other of the two transfers; although, as I showed in my recent article, some of them, and probably all, ran through the whole number of printings that were made during the period that particular transfer was in use. If the several varieties only appear in one of the transfers, it accounts, in a great measure, for the rarity of these stamps, a point which Mr. Castle has always insisted upon.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.'s books show that the paper used for the first-issue stamps was manufactured from a double* pair of watermarked moulds, which contained the figure of a swan 240 times on each sheet; that is, 960 times in all. Now in the manufacture of this paper, a mistake was made in the arrangement of the watermarks, as they were placed in twenty horizontal rows of twelve (like the star watermarked sheets), instead of being in twelve horizontal rows of twenty, to correspond with the form of the One Penny plate. This error explains how it is the watermark on the first-issue stamps is found sideways. In the case of the transfer of the Four Pence, arranged in ten horizontal rows of six, one would expect to find the watermark correctly placed on the stamps; but although I have examined a large number of this value lately, I have not succeeded in finding a single specimen so watermarked. *Should* the watermark differ for the two arrangements in the way I have mentioned, it would prove an excellent test for distinguishing the stamps of one transfer from the other.

The Philatelic Exhibition at Ipswich.

BY ROBERT EHRENBACH.



AS the readers of the *London Philatelist* have heard, Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., the well-known stamp dealers, decided to arrange an Exhibition of Postage Stamps during the Meeting of the British Association at Ipswich, from the 11th till the 18th of September, and as shewn by the large roll of visitors, it has proved to have been a great success, which must be satisfactory to the promoters and Philatelists in general, as it showed that the scientists who assembled at the pleasant provincial town of Ipswich take some interest in the hobby which most of the readers of this periodical have so much at heart. And let it be said at once, that though the Exhibition was not a very big one, the quality of the exhibits could hardly have been surpassed. Messrs. King & Co. had put the first floor of their business premises at the disposal of

* Not a single pair, as I stated in the "*London Philatelist*," Vol. I. page 296.

this Exhibition, and the "big guns" of British Philately lent their best and rarest stamps to make the affair a success. Many of the rarities on view have already been seen by Londoners, at the Exhibition of Rare Stamps held last year at Effingham House, but this could not be avoided, and did not matter in the least, as, probably, most of the visitors at the Ipswich Exhibition did not have the opportunity of visiting the Philatelic Society's rooms.

Mr. W. B. Avery, of Birmingham, shows, amongst his fine exhibit, the rarest stamps extant, in the 2 c., rose, British Guiana; the two Post-office Mauritius, unused; the Millbury local; the inverted Swan fourpence of Western Australia, etc. Besides these he shows a block of 7½ double Genevas, *unused*; a whole set of the Moldavian stamps, Issue I.; a grand lot of Cape woodblocks, including the errors; a beautiful series of Nevis in entire sheets, of Newfoundlands in the orange and vermilion shades, of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick shillings in various shades, a magnificent selection of early British Guianas, including all the circular varieties, etc., beautiful Canadas, amongst which are a pair of unused and a single used copy of the 12 pence. Last, not least, he shows the rarest varieties of his unique collection of U. S. and Confederate States locals.

Mr. W. W. Blest contributes a superb collection of Trinidads, and New Zealands, and Queenslands, which, doubtless, are amongst the finest in the world. Very few probably know how very difficult it is to collect these three countries in an unused state, especially the first named one; and to mention only a few things of this choice exhibit I will name the 1s. New Zealand, on blue paper; the 1s. on pelure, perforated; several of the roulettes, the first issue Queensland, all unused, and many others.

Mr. A. de Worms exhibits parts of his well-known collection of Ceylons, amongst them the splendid set of the octagonals, imperforate and unused, including a brilliant 4d.; and the 2d., CC and Crown, in the rare apple-green shade. I merely mention a few among the lot, but it will be easily understood that every other rare Cingalese variety is also on view.

Major E. B. Evans has a good collection of Soruths and Mulready caricatures, etc., amongst his exhibits.

Mr. M. P. Castle, of Brighton, treats the visitors to a plethora of rare Europeans, almost all unused, and to which of these to give the palm it would be difficult to say. Even more difficult would it be to name a European rarity that is not represented. The Moldavia, Issue I., 54, 81, 108, unused; the 27 para, used; a block of 4 of the Saxony error; splendid Spanish, including the reversed head, 12 c., blue and rose, *perf.* unused; the 5 k. Finland error; a strip of three 15 c. French Republic, unused. A hitherto unknown variety in the 15 c. Dutch, Issue III., *perf.* 10 × 10½; a splendid array of rare Italian States and Swiss Cantonals, amongst which is a strip of five 5 c. Genevas, Type I., and a strip of five 6 rappen Zurich, showing the five types and the error. The English stamps included the very rare 2d., blue, thin lines, watermarked Large Crown, *perf.* 16; the 9d. hair lines; and the 9 penny, Plate V., octagonals, and so on.

Mr. Wickham Jones has a large variety of early Shanghais on view, which as everybody knows, are very hard indeed to get. This, together with my

own exhibit (which included many good Germans, for instance—early Wurtembergs; a reconstructed sheet of 3 pfg., Saxony; early Thurn and Taxis; the 5 c., reversed net, Alsace; a pair of the 6 kr., Type I., Bavaria, and a few Oldenbergs, etc., on view: together with several sheets of other Europeans, mostly Austria, Lombardy, Sweden, Russia, and a 100 reis Don Maria, Portuguese, etc.), would be a rough sketch of the rarities which are to be seen.*


The Agent-General of the Crown Colonies has, moreover, exhibited very many of the present and obsolete issues of various Colonies. The Chartered Company, the South African and East African Companies, also show their present issues, and Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. have a whole Exhibition by themselves of new issues of nearly every stamp-issuing country. This, in itself, proved to be a great attraction. Certainly it is quite the thing to induce new blood to join our ranks. It only remains to congratulate the promoters of the Exhibition on the efficient way in which they have carried it out, and to thank them for the hospitality and courtesy shown to everybody who came in contact with them; and speaking for myself, I do so most heartily—I really hardly know what I liked most in Ipswich, the reception received at the hands of Mr. and Mrs. King, their beautiful orchids, or the stamps.

Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

THE 80 c. OF PARMA.

UR friend, Dr. E. Diena, has addressed a query to the readers of our contemporary, the *Monthly Journal*, which, in order to give additional publicity to, and in the hope of an elucidation, we now repeat. Dr. Diena states that he has been frequently asked whether he possesses a used copy of the 80 c., orange, of the 1859 Provisional issue of Parma, and states that not only does he not possess it, but has never seen a copy. He therefore invites communication from any collector possessing a specimen, with permission to examine it. We should be very glad if any of our readers can assist Dr. Diena in this matter, and the Editor will undertake to forward and return any stamps submitted. We may add that the Doctor seems somewhat sceptical as to the circulation of this stamp, having heard that at least in certain offices it was never on sale. In our own experience we never remember to have possessed a copy. The only case of a used specimen we can call to mind was one sold at Colonel Knox's sale, by Messrs. Ventom,

* Mr. Ehrenbach's exhibits were, as we understand, almost all unused, and those who have had the privilege of seeing his collection will gather that he has hardly done justice to his own exhibit.—ED.

Bull, & Cooper, some three or four years since. The stamp was, we believe, described as used and rare, and we have a distinct recollection of seeing the purchaser claim his bargain then and there, and sail out of the room with an air of conscious triumph. Perhaps Messrs. Ventom & Co. can kindly assist Dr. Diena in this matter.

A NOTABLE VARIATION OF WATERMARK (INDIA).

WE are indebted to Mr. J. Seymour Summers, the hon. secretary Bombay Philatelic Society, for the following interesting communication:—

“Of the series of Indian postage stamps issued to the public in the years 1882–83–88, all the different values were printed on paper watermarked with a five-pointed star. The issue previous to this, however, was printed on paper which bore the watermark of an elephant’s head in profile. It is in only one of the values printed on the star-watermarked paper that the variation exists, which I propose describing here. The variety in question appears in a comparatively little-used value, and so far only one sheet of this value would appear to have been issued for postal use.

“The five-pointed star has been used as an emblem from the most ancient times, and works on mythology and the use of emblems note two positions only of the star—one in which the single ray points directly upwards, and the other wherein two rays are shown pointing upwards and a single ray directed downwards. In the former of these positions, the emblematic star is said to represent the good, or beneficent, principle in Nature, while in the latter it signifies the evil principle, otherwise known as the Goat of Mendes, the upper divergent rays of the star occupying the position of the horns, the middle rays that of the ears, and the lower ray representing the beard, or ‘billy goat.’

“The correct and inverted positions of the emblematic five-pointed star is further elucidated by the cuts given below.

No 1



No 2.



“In some of the earlier stamps of the 9-pie value, carmine, issued by the Indian Post-office in 1883, the star appears in the position as depicted under No. 2 above. Up to the present time, only one sheet has been discovered with the star watermark in the incorrect position, and this particular sheet was issued from a small local post-office in the Madura District.

“The stamps of this sheet (part of which, containing fourteen stamps, is now in my possession) are of a dull carmine colour, of a much deeper tint than the later emissions of the same stamps, which are found to be of a very light carmine-pink. The gum too on the former variety is of a dark brownish colour, and the paper of a cream colour, though these latter differences may

be due to long keeping. In my opinion, the variety is a unique one among the issues for India, and of a certain interest to philatelists, as hitherto only one sheet of this variation is known, thus placing it in the list of the scarcer, and possibly unobtainable, adhesive postals of British India."

Although we fully appreciate the interest attaching to Mr. Seymour Summers' notes, we are hardly able to do the like to his closing sentence. It seems to us that this variety, unless clearly distinguished from its compeers by original colour of printing or difference of paper, is closely akin to the species generally termed "inverted watermarks."—ED.



THE DISCOVERY OF ST. LOUIS STAMPS.

IN the *London Philatelist* for 1893 (page 179), in describing a specimen of the long-disputed 20 c. St. Louis, which had been shown to Mr. Castle on his travels by Mr. J. W. Scott, the hope was expressed that some day these stamps would be found on the original, so as to finally settle the question. The wish expressed by Mr. Castle a couple of years since has been gratified, a marvellous "find" of these rare stamps having taken place. Mr. Tiffany's most able articles hereon had already practically solved the question, and it only remains for the recent *dénouement* to ring down the curtain amid universal applause. The discovery was made in cleaning up certain rooms in the Louisville Court House, and is believed to consist of about 100 stamps of the 5, 10, and 20 c., including no less than 15 of the latter, an exceedingly rare stamp. After a naturally keen competition, we understand that the spoils have been divided between the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. and Messrs. McKeel, in whose hands the stamps will assuredly not long remain. The *A. J. P.* illustrates some of the discoveries, shewing that the dies of the 5 and 20 c. will have to be re-christened with a new initial. The illustration shews strips and pairs on the original of the two lower values, both postmarked and penmarked, and also a vertical strip of the 10 c. with a 5 c. *se tenant* at the side of the lowest specimen. The *chef d'œuvre* is, however, a vertical pair of the 20 c. *se tenant*, with a 5 c. beneath. This strip is penmarked, but has the large circular St. Louis postmark closely adjoining it on the original cover, and indeed, represents as interesting and as valuable a resuscitation as can be found within the four corners of Philately.



Occasional Notes.

NOTE—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

THE SILLY SEASON!

A MORE than ordinarily wild *canard* has been allowed to record its flight in the columns of a large number of newspapers—at this period of the year prone to accept any item of “news,” whether relating to stamps or sea-serpents. The rumour in question stated that H.R.H. the Duke of York had sold his collection of postage stamps to the Baron de Rothschild for £56,000, etc., etc. Needless to say, there is not a scintilla of truth in the statement, which is absolutely the invention of some disordered journalistic brain.

THE TAPLING COLLECTION.

WE are informed by Mr. E. D. Bacon that the stamps of the following countries are now on view at the British Museum, and judging from the great interest—Philatelic and financial—displayed in the West Indian stamps, should be inspected by many visitors: St. Vincent, Tobago, Trinidad, Turks Island, and Virgin Islands. Also on view are the following West Africans: Gambia, Gold Coast, and Sierra Leone.

MISS TAPLING.

WE are happy to be enabled to make an announcement, that will be read with interest in Philatelic circles, in the engagement of Miss Florence Tapling to the Hon. T. Fremantle, the eldest son of Lord Cottesloe. Miss Tapling is the only sister of the late esteemed Vice-President of the London Philatelic Society, Mr. T. K. Taping, M.P. We tender the congratulations of the Philatelic community to the young lady, with the best wishes for her welfare and that of her future husband.

SPLITTING-PERFORATIONS!

THE restless energy of Messrs. Hilckes & Co., Limited, has devised a further means of torture for the Philatelic strainer after small things, in the guise of a perforating gauge that measures the quarters—*e.g.* 12, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 12 $\frac{3}{4}$, etc.—with absolute accuracy, as we are assured. Given the issue of Holland and Austria, plus a $\frac{1}{4}$ perforation gauge, what would be the result to the—patient? Probably the same as arrived to the occupier of the room with the mathematically-squared paper, who never ceased counting up and down—Colney Hatch!

UNNECESSARY ISSUES (*THE ROCK AHEAD*).

THE paper read before the Philatelic Society by the Editor of this journal a few months since, entitled, "The Rock Ahead," has not even yet ceased from ruffling the bosoms of our too susceptible friends across the Channel. Another French journalist, following in the wake of M. A. "Maoury," the Editor of the symphonetically-named *l'Intermédiaire de la Timbrologie*, has fallen foul of Mr. Castle's Anglophil notions! The idea of classing *all* the English Colonials as legitimate, and all the French as illegitimate issues! and so on *ad infinitum*. Mr. Castle never suggested that there were not black sheep in all the Philatelic flocks, but simply took as his *general* basis of calculation the populations and probable requirements of several divisions of the globe, and the relative amount of stamps issued. Among the English Colonies, notably in the cases of Ceylon, Straits Settlements, Labuan, and North Borneo, there have assuredly been unnecessary issues, which are equally condemned on both sides of the Channel; but no dispassionate person could place the postal requirements of the English Colonial Empire on a par with that of the French, or fail to note that Obock issues more stamps than the Empire of India. Leaving this question apart, however, let us take M. Gainsborg on his own figures. Ignoring the *general* nature of the basis adopted, our critic objects to the inclusion in the "illegitimate" group of South and Central America, as, with justice, he contends that the Seebeckised countries embrace no less than 99 stamps out of the 127 issued by all the countries of this group. In accordance with this suggestion, we will amend Mr. Castle's grouping.

A. (*Mainly legitimate.*)

Great Britain and Colonies	.	.	.	.	99
Europe	.	.	.	.	108
America (except Seebecks)	.	.	.	.	47
All other Countries	.	.	.	.	164
					<u>418</u>

B. (*Mainly illegitimate.*)

French and Portuguese Colonies and China	.	.	.	.	339
America (Seebecks)	.	.	.	.	99
					<u>438</u>

Can anything demonstrate more plainly than these figures the unnecessary existence of a very large proportion of Group B? Four or five South American Republics, the Colonies of *two* European countries, and a few Chinese Treaty Ports have issued more stamps than all the world put together. In all probability, the real letter-writing inhabitants of this second group do not exceed in number the population of London!

M. Gainsborg has further, and most unjustly, associated the S.S.S.S. with Mr. Castle's remarks anent the French Colonies, etc. That body will most assuredly commit itself to no precipitate step in condemning these or any other stamps. Mr. Castle's paper was compiled before the formation of that Society, nor has it in any way formed any basis for its action, therefore M.

Gainsborg's diatribe about international jealousies is at once childish and unjustifiable. The most significant criticism that can be passed upon M. Gainsborg's narrow-minded carplings is contained in the advertising columns of his own journal, in which he himself advertises his wish to buy the following stamps: Alsace, Bavaria, Brazil, Canada, Ceylon, French Colonies — *not surcharged* (!), Spain, United States, France, Great Britain, Hamburg, Mauritius, Nevis, etc. Are these in Group A or Group B, M. Gainsborg?

H.M. CUSTOMS AND PHILATELY IN INDIA.

WRITING to the Calcutta *Englishman* of August 6th, a correspondent (whose initials are not sufficient to conceal his identity) sympathises with a former letter-writer on the fact of his having been "fined" some 60 rupees for Customs duty on a consignment of stamps sent on approval by a home dealer.

The writer states that the Bengal Philatelic Society petitioned the Government against the duty of 5 per cent. levied on the importation of stamps, but received as a reply that the Government could not accede to the petitioners' request. As an instance of the serious loss of business occasioned by the tax, the case of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, is mentioned, who recently sent to Calcutta a book of stamps valued at £255. This was duly opened by the officials, and a duty of 5 per cent. demanded on the full invoice price, which the recipient refused, the book finally being returned to London intact as sent. He further suggests that if the duty continues to be insisted on, dealers and others will be compelled to turn their attention away from India, and many collectors, old and young, will close their albums in disgust, and cease to collect, as, with the duty added, the prices will be prohibitive to forming a collection at a reasonable cost.

It is evident, from the Indian Tariff Acts of 1894, that the officials are acting in full compliance to the Acts, by levying the duty.

The writer sums up his protest by calling to notice the indirect tribute to Government paid annually by collectors in purchasing unused sets for insertion in albums, and for which no postal service is asked; and, as a last resource, suggests that collectors refuse to pay a single cent duty on unsolicited approval sheets.


The Calcutta and Bombay Societies would do well to find some "friend at Court," in order to obtain the insertion of a clause in the draft of the next revised schedule, or new Tariff Act, which would exempt foreign stamps from duty.

REDUCTION OF THE TRANSVAAL POSTAL TARIFF.

AN esteemed correspondent informs us that the following reductions will take place in the Transvaal, to commence from the 6th of September next:—Letters will be a penny per half ounce instead of two pence, book post halfpenny per 2 ozs. instead of a penny, and parcels 8d. instead of a shilling.

It is also intimated that, at an early date, the Cape and Transvaal will adopt a uniform colour of stamp for their respective denominations, the Orange Free State and Natal, however, not seeing their way, as yet, clear to adopt the same desirable innovation.

MR. N. F. SEEBECK UPON SPECULATIVE ISSUES.

E have received the following letter from Mr. N. F. Seebeck, dated New York, August 29th, 1895:—

“DEAR SIR,—I am not callous to the attacks made upon me as a manufacturer of what my over-zealous critics have chosen to call ‘Seebeckized’ stamp issues. As a mere manufacturer, I could afford to disregard these attacks; I would simply adapt my methods in the future, as I have adapted them in the past, to the needs and demands of my market. But I am not merely a manufacturer. I am, and for years have been, a loyal and ardent Philatelist. Long before the grey hairs began to crop out on the top of my devoted cranium, I became, and have ever since remained, an enthusiastic devotee of the science of Philately; and it is as one of your fraternity, and because I want to retain the respect of my fellow Philatelists, that I feel most keenly the injustice which has been done me. I do not think that the false imputations are inspired by malice; they are rather the result of misdirected and exaggerated zeal in a crusade, the main end and purpose of which is laudable—a crusade against official abuse of postal administrative powers.

“With this crusade, as far as it attacks vicious administrative systems, I heartily sympathize; but I protest against the personal animus injected into it, and which singles out a mere individual engraver as its victim and scapegoat. I protest especially against the unfair—not to say libellous—abuse of my name as a trade mark of everything that is unholy, and as if I were personally and peculiarly responsible for the acts of every government that chooses to employ me. Is it not plain that such a rule of responsibility is false, unfair, and overstrained?

“For years I have dealt with these various governments, whose conduct seems, recently, to have aroused hostile criticism. During all these years, my dealings have been known and sustained by the Philatelic world. No one seems to have thought that my acceptance of payment in kind, for my services as an engraver, was anything but prudent and fair. Suddenly the current of opinion seems to have changed. Well and good. No one disputes that a man, or even a whole set of men, can honestly undergo a change of opinion. Gladstone in England, Bismarck in Germany, Gambetta in France, and our Webster and Clay, and ‘honest old Abe Lincoln,’ are brilliant examples of courage and honesty, in confessing that wider experience had convinced them of former error, and induced them to modify their previous opinions. And as I honour them, so I respect those members of our fraternity who now claim that their previous sanction of my business methods was a mistake. But why am I not entitled to the same consideration which I am willing to extend to them? Why should they not recognise that, if I was or am mistaken in believing my methods to be right, I am at least honestly mistaken?

“I have said that, as a business man, I necessarily adapt my methods to the changing demands of my market. In this case, as a Philatelist, I do so most cheerfully. I shall bow to the consensus of opinion in my fraternity. Not that I am, even now, convinced that as a manufacturer I am responsible for governmental abuses, nor because any combination of dealers will, in my opinion, ever be strong enough to

force the hand of administrative officers. Indeed, I may go further, and say that, personally, I believe the charges of maladministration to be grossly exaggerated. But in principle I agree with the spirit of the crusade against the indiscriminate issue of speculative stamps; and, wholly irrespective of the merits involved, I rejoice in the manly stand which our fraternity is taking, for what it honestly deems to be fair and square. I trust that the time will come when governments will realise that they owe something to the Philatelic world. I believe the present crusade will help to bring nearer that Philatelic millennium; although, as a practical man, I feel that the millennium is still a good way off. But each of us can help; and I, among others, am willing to become an ally in the movement, by discontinuing the contracts which my fellow Philatelists find so obnoxious, provided that I can do so with honour, and without prejudice to vested rights.

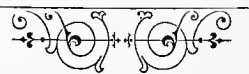
"It must, however, be evident to every reasonable person, that my withdrawal from, or attempt to cancel, my present contracts with the various South and Central American Republics would, for the purposes of our crusade, be futile, unless some adequate protection is guaranteed against the making of similar contracts with my competitors. But if my fellow Philatelists, in furtherance of their high ends, can secure, from each one of the countries concerned, a guarantee that no contract, similar in spirit to those found objectionable, will hereafter be made, with any other bank-note company or other person, I am prepared to cancel every objectionable contract which I now hold, provided, of course, that the respective governments will join in such cancellation, and release me from obligations assumed. I do not know how I can more effectually evidence my sympathy with the demand for fair play.

"And, in the meantime, I wish God-speed to the crusade of honesty and integrity in Philatelic affairs—only, let the crusade be one of principle, and not one of personal animosity.

"Yours respectfully,

"N. F. SEEBECK."

The tone of the preceding letter will call for commendation and sympathy from all well-wishers of the new movement. We should, of course, have preferred an unconditional surrender of the privileges that Mr. Seebeck has so long enjoyed, to the detriment of Philately, as we quite fail to see how Philatelists are to extract a guarantee from the peccant American republics, not to again make themselves a party to so mean and contemptible a system of increasing their finances. It is, however, much to have secured Mr. Seebeck's manly condemnation of the valueless issues that have almost driven South and Central American stamps beyond the pale of Philately.—ED.



Reviews.

MESSRS. STANLEY GIBBONS' CATALOGUE.*



LONG heralded by copious advertisements in almost every Philatelic Journal in the world, this work has at last made its appearance. No wonder can be excited at the delay that has taken place, but rather the reverse, that so great a task could have been accomplished since the comparatively recent period when Messrs. Stanley Gibbons wisely decided to discard all their previous ideas of a Catalogue, and to bring their firm well abreast of the times. The well-known quarto shape that was at one time universally affected by dealers for their Catalogues had its last survivor in that of this firm, and it is without the slightest pang of regret that we part company with that large and cumbersome form of publication, and its tedious system of illustrations separated from the text. These alterations, however, are of but relatively slight moment compared with that of the contents. The old system of arbitrarily choosing to describe or ignore varieties in accordance with the printed spaces in their albums, has been swept away by the publishers, and we are now presented with a detailed, and in many cases exhaustive, list of all the stamps and their sub-varieties. This result—of a really excellent catalogue and a reliable price list—has not been achieved without an enormous expenditure of time and money. Major E. B. Evans, Mr. Gordon Smith, with a number of other Philatelists of equal acumen, have devoted an immense amount of time towards securing accuracy in the several portions entrusted to their care, and in many cases the lists denote that thorough and minute acquaintance with the stamps that can only be acquired by long and patient specialised study. To cite only a few among the many admirable lists that display this knowledge—the names of the countries will suggest those of the *collaborateurs*—Barbados, St. Vincent, Trinidad, South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Great Britain, Greece, Portuguese India, Afghanistan, etc.

We understand that the pricing of the varieties—a task only inferior in difficulty to the cataloguing—has been executed by the firm itself, after frequent consultation with “those who know,” and we have no hesitation in saying that, allowing for a few exceptions, and taking them on the average, the prices of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' New Catalogue form the truest and fairest criterion of Philatelic market values that has hitherto appeared. We have made allusion elsewhere to this subject, and can only here congratulate the publishers upon their generally accurate appraisal of values.

Neatly bound in limp red cloth, the Catalogue is of pocket size, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 4, and hence a trifle smaller than its well-known competitor, issued by

* *Descriptive Catalogue and Price List of Postage Stamps*, 1895-6. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., 391, Strand, London, W.C.

Messrs. Senf, while in bulk it is only about two-thirds of its Teutonic contemporary. This result—by no means to be despised—is arrived at from the double-columned printing, by which the contents only extend to 580 pages as against 788 in that of Messrs. Senf. The printing, which is small, but clear and legible, is from an entirely new fount, and the illustrations, of which there are several thousands, in reduced size, are agreeably and suitably interspersed in the text. Another sensible innovation is the division of the Catalogue into the three heads of (I.) Stamps, (II.) Post Cards, and (III.) Envelopes and Newsbands. The result of these changes is that the collector's convenience is studied and his time saved, and in consequence this work will at once become a daily book of reference, indispensable to every Philatelist worthy of the name.

The demands upon our space forbid anything like a detailed criticism. From their exceptional opportunities, it would be inferred that the stamps of the British Colonies would be well described by Messrs. Gibbons, and we can only say that in many of the countries, such as Barbados, St. Vincent, and British Guiana, not only will many collectors be made to open their eyes when they read of the new varieties, but their pockets too, in order to acquire them! We fancy, by the way, that the first stamp described in South Australia, the 1d., London print, of 1855, should hardly be termed "pale green." To our mind this was always, although varying in shade or intensity, of a dark, rich green, occasionally almost approaching a bluish tinge. The arrangement of the English stamps, following the dies, is highly to be commended for purposes of reference, while all the plate numbers are separately priced. Some of the European countries have hardly had full justice done to them. In Portugal the sub-types of the earlier issues are, in some cases, ignored. In France the lists of shades are most meagre; *e.g.* the 10 c. Empire, imperforate, being briefly described as "buff," the various printings and colours of this stamp being on a par for interest with those of South Australia or Trinidad. The stamps printed *tête-bêche*, which are among the rarest and most-sought-after of the French stamps, are omitted, while the 1876 error, arising also from a misplaced *cliché*, is included. The perforated and rouletted sets of the Bordeaux issues of 1870 should also have been included, as the line of what was or was not official, during that chaotic period, is difficult to draw, and they have at least an equal right to be chronicled with the like varieties of the Suisse perforation, Transvaal, or New Zealand. In Spain, 1853, the 5 reales, green, is priced 35s., used, presumably a mistake for 5s. Some of the German States also require amplification, amongst others, Hanover and Oldenburg. The rouletted series of Wurtemberg, 1866-68, is made to include the 9 kr., *black-brown*, in addition to other shades, as in the previous perforated set, but we do not ever remember to have seen or heard of this stamp. The lists of the United States, both general issues and locals, and those of the Confederate States, are very good, the same remark applying to that of Afghanistan, for the study of which Messrs. Gibbons have had exceptional opportunities.

The portions devoted to the descriptions of the envelopes and cards constitute more than one-third of the whole contents, and afford another instance of the vast amount of labour that has been devoted to the production of this

Catalogue. These lists are indeed excellent, are copiously illustrated, and we devoutly trust may have the effect of inducing further study of this much-neglected branch of collecting.

The stereotyped phrase of "filling a long felt want" has really an application in the present case. The "up to date" Catalogues issued by Messrs. Senf, Mekeel, and the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. had quite put our country in the shade, and it was universally conceded that the time was fully ripe for a little wholesome competition from this country. Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have nobly stepped into the breach, and though it would be affectation to deny that this Catalogue (like many others) is produced primarily in the interests of the Publishers, there can be no reason for withholding from it the cordial and unstinted approbation of all collectors. It is an honest, genuine, and excellent Catalogue, its publication is a distinct gain to the cause of Philately, and all the vast array of English and Colonial collectors will unite with us in wishing it and its publishers the success that they have striven so hard to achieve.

THE STAMPS OF ST. VINCENT.*

THESE interesting and beautiful stamps form the subject of the fourth monograph of the series of *Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Philatelic Handbooks*. Under the editorship of such writers as Messrs. Bacon and Napier, an exhaustive and able history of the St. Vincent stamps was to be anticipated; nor is the expectation in any way belied, as from cover to cover the book is replete with an amount of interesting and succinct information, that will at once redound to the credit of the authors, and increase the already great and deserved regard in which these stamps are held. Preceded by a lengthy and eminently-readable Preface, in which the authors explain their *modus operandi*, follow the lists of issues, divided into two main portions—(1) the stamps of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., and (2) those of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. As in the previously-published handbooks, the Notes are placed at the end of the book—a system not without its disadvantages. These are, in turn, followed by invaluable Appendices of the dates of issue, quantities printed, and varieties of perforation, as far as the information is available. The authors express their indebtedness to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Limited, for their great courtesy in giving information and assistance, an expression of opinion that will find a responsive echo among all Philatelists, who regard the name of this celebrated firm almost with veneration, in grateful remembrance of their beautiful handiwork.

This treatise will indeed be welcomed at the hands of West Indian collectors, not only for its intrinsic merits, but for the able and novel manner in which it unravels the mystery always attaching to the vagaries of perforation among the St. Vincent stamps. The theory of the authors, ably sustained and appropriately illustrated by blocks of the reverse side of the stamp, set upon a black background, is that, owing to irregular spacing of the perforating needles, the gauge varies along the lines of perforation.

* *The Stanley Gibbons' Philatelic Handbooks. Saint Vincent.* By F. H. NAPIER and E. D. BACON. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, 391, Strand, London, W.C.

In a row of stamps, measuring in all 124 mm., the *mean* gauge was $11\frac{2}{3}$ to the 2 centimetres, while the *actual* measurements in this space varied from 11 to nearly 13. The broad results arrived at are, that in the Perkins, Bacon issues there are but two distinct gauges—(a) small, (b) large—and the same in compound together. One exception to this rule is that well-remembered rarity (unused), the 6d., yellow-green, of 1862, with a small clean-cut perforation of about 15, which the authors rightly maintain to be a separate and distinct issue.

In the De la Rue series there is less difficulty, as no compounds exist, and only two clearly-defined measurements—*e.g.*, 12 and 14.

A careful study of this work will thus enable collectors to evolve order out of chaos in their St. Vincents, and should evoke their gratitude towards the very able authors for the brilliant service they have rendered to the philatelic history of the West Indian stamps.

MR. EWEN'S GREAT BRITAIN CATALOGUE.*

YET another list of the adhesive issues of our own country has now appeared, and from the pen of one who has devoted much time to their study. The main feature of this little volume, consisting of nearly 100 pages of letterpress, lies in the description of the various postmarks on the English stamps. Nearly half the volume is devoted to a description of these, accompanied by illustrations of all the known varieties of the Colonial, Consular, and other obliterations. Following the German precedent, there is evidently a rising school of collectors, who not only collect stamps, but postmarks also, and to them this work will be found of great assistance. In the list of the issues, nothing seems too small to have escaped Mr. Ewen's notice. "Ivory beads," watermarks inverted, "eyeball distinct" or "invisible," distances of perforation from edge of stamp, and so on, will all afford an infinite source of delectation to the collector of "insatiable maw." We do not, however, remember to have seen the 1d., black on bluish paper, as listed. The prices, on the whole, seem fair, although *the* rarities are, as usual with unattainables, priced far below their true value. The typography of the work is excellent, and the book will be found to well repay the purchaser for his moderate outlay.

* *Priced Catalogue of the Adhesive Postage and Telegraph Stamps, Postmarks, and Obliterations of the United Kingdom.* H. L. Ewens, Swanage, Dorset.



New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—We have news from Messrs. Cameron & Co. to the effect that the Company's territory now being converted into a British Protectorate, the Company's stamps ceased to circulate at the end of August. We may look for a fresh stamp emanating from Government printers, but in the meantime we hear of the following stamps (old Company type), with overprint "British East Africa" in three lines in black, apparently put on with a hand-stamp:

Adhesives.

$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, brown;	black surcharge.	
1 " green	"	
2 annas, red	"	
$2\frac{1}{2}$ " black on yellow	"	(?)
3 " brown on red	"	
4 " light brown	"	
$4\frac{1}{2}$ " violet	"	
5 " black on blue-green	"	(?)
$7\frac{1}{2}$ " black	"	(?)
8 " blue	"	
2 rupees, brown-red	"	
3 " slate-violet	"	
4 " bright blue	"	
5 " sap green	"	

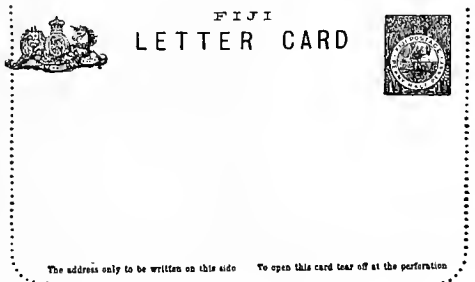


CANADA.—We are late with our illustration of the lately-issued envelope, but better now than never.

FIJI.—We find quoted in a contemporary a *discovery* of two printings of the 5d. on 6d. surcharge. This we credited to Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. as far back as March, 1894 (Vol. III., p. 69).

We illustrate the stationery mentioned

last month, with the addition of the following cards:



UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE.

FIJI-Kio Fijia.



To

THE OTHER HALF IS FOR THE REPLY ONLY.
La carte ci-jointe est destinée à la réponse.

Post Cards. 1d., black on white.
1 + 1d., violet on white (reply).
1½d., deep green on white.
1½ + 1½d., carmine " (reply).

INDIA.—Under a postal notice of date May 9, private post cards may now be used to all countries in the Postal Union.

QUEENSLAND.—We confess to being unable to keep up with the tactics of this fertile colony. The fact that a 5d. adhesive is in preparation is good enough, but what is the meaning of the current $\frac{1}{2}$ d. appearing on *burelé* paper?

Adhesive. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, *burelé* across back.

We hear, on going to press, that the *burelé* stamp has been superseded by a thick edition (!) similar to the late 1d.

Adhesive. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, on thick paper.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Perak*.—Here



is an illustration of the recently-issued surcharge (page 172).

There appear to be two sizes of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. envelope, mentioned on page 194.

Envelope.

$2\frac{1}{2}$ d., ultramarine on white laid; 190×95 mm.

VICTORIA.—Although said to have been issued at the beginning of the year, the 4d. unpaid letter stamp has only just been issued.

The 1d. wrapper has the impression in blue, replacing brown.

Adhesive. 4d., carmine and blue.

Wrapper. 1d., blue on white.

ZULULAND.—By mistake last month the chronicle of the Zululand £1 stamp was included under Gold Coast. The insertion of the note was simply to draw attention to the difference in the types of the two labels, in the one case £1, and in the other 20s.

EUROPE.

BULGARIA.—We notice two more changes of colour on the authority of several contemporaries, but *Le T.-P.* informs us that neither these nor the 15 and 30 stotinki are known at Sofia.

Adhesive. 1 stot, flesh.
20 „ light violet.

ITALY.—The unpaid letter stamps of 50 and 100 lire were retired from use on July 1st. We annex a cut of the new type 20 c. stamp.



NORWAY.—We learn from the *I. B. J.* that the 10 öre card has the redrawn type of stamp, with “NORGE” in place of “NORGE.”

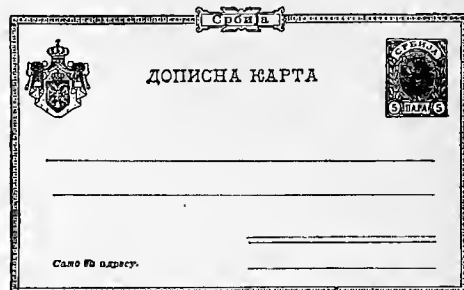
Post Card. 10 öre, carmine.

PORTUGAL.—*Le C. de T.-P.* reports the 20+20 reis card, and the 50 reis letter card, with stamp of current type.

Post Card. 20+20 reis, lilac on buff.

Letter Card. 50 reis, blue on yellow.

SERVIA.—The following is an illustration of the new 5 paras card:



SWEDEN.—We have the 20 öre adhesive in quite a distinct colour of dull slate-blue.

Adhesive. 20 öre, slate-blue.

AMERICA.

BRAZIL.—It took us some time to wade through the following novelties, but we think we have it correct at last. A new type unpaid letter stamp of 2000 reis, a 500 reis envelope, and a 40+40 reis reply card, both issued on July 26th; and the *A. J. of Ph.* mentions a 300 reis envelope of “large” size, which had an issue of 5000, all to itself! and also a 80+80 reis reply card.

Unpaid. 2000 reis, red-brown; *perf.* 13×11.

Envelopes. 300 „ slate on white wove; 160×90 mm.
500 „ slate-blue; 130×106 mm.

Post Card.

40+40 reis, green and dark blue on deep buff (reply).
80+80 „ mauve and deep blue on blue („).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—According to the *A. J. of Ph.*, a new type was issued for the 1 c. and 2 c. adhesives on July 5. Except the addition of numerals in the upper corners, we see no difference from the type of the preceding issue.

Adhesives. 1 c., green; *perf.* 12½×14.
2 c., red „

PARAGUAY.—*Le C. de T.-P.* chronicles the 7 c., brown, of 1887, with overprint “PROVISORIO” in a curve, and a large “5” over the old value. We understand that a new series is in preparation, which would appear to be quite unnecessary.

Adhesive.

5 c. cn 7 c., brown; black surcharge.

UNITED STATES.—The following illustrates the new type of newspaper stamps.



OTHER COUNTRIES.

ABYSSINIA.—With reference to our remarks on these labels, Messrs. Whitfield King write that these labels are a legitimate postal issue, if the authority of the Postmaster of Djibouti can be relied upon. We are sorry we cannot yet reconcile this issue, at the best, to be one for anything but a local use.

FRENCH LEVANT.—The surcharge of "2 PIASTRES 2" on the 50 c., rose, French adhesive, has now been placed at the base of the stamp to avoid confusion with the 3 pia. on 75 c., rose.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—Several contemporaries mention a new provisional post card, consisting of the 2d., adhesive, surcharged 1½d., in red, and overprinted in black with coat of arms, without flags.

Post Card.

(1½d., in red, on 2d., mauve) black on white.

PORTO RICO.—The 4 c. has appeared in dark blue, in place of ultramarine.

Adhesive. 4 c., dark blue.

SIAM.—More surcharging, and we begin to doubt the necessity. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us the 24 atts with overprint "10 atts," and the corresponding Chinese surcharge.

Adhesive. 10 atts, in black, on 24 atts, lilac and blue.

TONGA.—Referring to the letter quoted last month (page 222), the colour of the stamp which received the surcharges of 1d., 1½d., 2½d., and 7½d. should be blue, and *not* lilac. The stamp seems to have been printed in this special colour for the surcharges, as there were no available stamps in stock. There is an error in the 2½d. stamp, by which the word "surcharge" is spelt "SUO-CHARGE." (S.S.S. wanted here!)

TRANSVAAL.—There is yet another provisional to add to last month's list, the 1s., green, of 1895 (pole), with overprint "Halve"—"Penny" in two lines, with the old value cancelled by a double bar. There were printed 750,000 of this surcharge, "caused by the arrival, a week too late, of the supply from Europe." We give illustrations of two of the provisionals, described last month.

Adhesive. Halfpenny, in carmine, on 1s., green.



TRAVANCORE.—The 2 chuckrams adhesive is now printed in pale rose, in place of orange.

Adhesive. 2 ch., pale rose.



Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE BENGAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—C. STEWART-WILSON, ESQ., C.S.
(*Deputy Director-General of the Post Office of India*).
Vice-President—ALFRED A. LYALL, ESQ.

REPORT.

THE eighteenth meeting of the Society was held at the Adelphi Hotel, at 9.15 p.m., on Monday, 13th May, 1895. The Vice-President took the chair.

1. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: Captain L. E. Du Moulin, proposed by F. A. Larmour, Esq., and seconded by the Hon. Secretary; Surg-Major Harwood, proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by the Hon. Secretary; J. D. Nicolas, Esq., proposed by the Vice-President, and seconded by J. H.

Lewes, Esq.; A. D. Mangas, Esq., proposed by T. B. G. Overend, Esq., and seconded by the Vice-President.

2. A letter from the Board of Revenue was read, replying to the Society's recent petition to abolish the import duty charged on stamps, stating that the Government did not accede to the request, and had decided that duty was to be paid.

The meeting then adjourned for the hot season's recess.

E. BERTHOUD,
Hon. Secretary.

WOOD STREET, CALCUTTA.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Officers and Members for the year ending October 1st, 1895:

President: W. T. WILSON, ESQ.

Vice-President: W. PIMM, ESQ.

Committee:

MR. D. DAVIS.

MR. C. A. STEPHENSON.

MR. W. S. VAUGHTON.

MR. W. G. WALTON.

Hon. Sec. and Treas.: MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A.,
208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

The numbers correspond with those on the Members' Cards.

1 C. A. Smith-Ryland	17 W. Pimm	33 W. A. Kings
2 G. Johnson	18 G. C. Ginn	34 A. Allen
3 G. A. Stephenson	19 A. J. Foster	35 C. Weaving
4 G. Bridgman	20 D. Davis	36 W. S. King
5 T. D. Dutton	21 H. R. Bewlay	37 W. S. Vaughton
6 F. F. Empson	22 C. F. Tanner	38 W. G. Walton
7 D. Ostara	23 J. E. Sparrow	39 A. Bartleet
8 W. J. Colley	24 J. S. Goodacre	40 G. F. Jackson
9 C. E. Baker	25 Miss J. Weston	41 A. E. Baxter
10 R. T. Stevens	26 W. F. Wadams	42 C. W. Burman
11 S. Lindhe	27 R. Hollick	43 W. A. S. Westoby
12 C. J. Phillips (honorary)	28 H. L. Ewen	44 H. Weston
13 J. Campbell	29 H. Clark	45 W. C. Tyrrell
14 R. Peake	30 V. Lundblad	46 J. H. Cooke
15 T. Birch	31 T. Ridpath	47 A. A. Bartlett
16 W. T. Wilson	32 Miss V. Facer	48 J. Tchakidji

49 C. W. Kissinger	59 P. T. Deakin	69 C. T. Boyton
50 R. Hughes	60 F. Seyde	70 E. Slinger
51 R. H. Hunter	61 H. W. Hodges	71 W. Vibert
52 P. Robertson	62 F. J. Lord	72 W. Ward
53 G. H. Hart	63 P. de la Tourniere	73 T. J. Rowland
54 C. Manby	64 E. F. Broderip	74 Samuel Epstein
55 C. W. S. Kynnersley	65 Mrs. L. Rondel	75 H. E. Schmidt de Wilde
56 W. G. Hawkins	66 W. Morley	76 W. J. Martin
57 F. A. Wickhart	67 H. Hilckes	77 E. W. Heusinger
58 W. A. Woolley	68 F. J. Crick	

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Officers for Session 1895-96.

President—W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S.

Vice-Presidents—W. B. SIMPSON; EUGENE EGLY.

Hon. Treasurer—FRANCIS J. KIDSON. | *Hon. Librarian*—J. W. DUFFIELD.

Hon. Secretaries—T. K. SKIPWITH; JOHN H. THACKRAH.

Ex-Presidents—OLIVER FIRTH; T. K. SKIPWITH.

At the last annual meeting of the Society the above-mentioned were elected as office-bearers for the coming session of 1895-1896.

The annual report showed that the Society had enjoyed a busy and satisfactory year's progress during 1894-95. No less than 18 meetings had been held, five being specially-arranged ones not included in the printed programme. The papers read included discourses by Mr. Washington Teasdale, F.R.M.S., on his own personal experiences of the postal administration of India in 1856-1868; by Mr. W. Barwell Turner, F.R.M.S., on "Philatelic Heraldry"; by Mr. J. F. C. Sieber, on "The Production of Stamps"; and descriptions of the stamps of Victoria, United States (envelopes), Spain (Alfonsist), Switzerland (Cantonal), and Great Britain (4d.), by Messrs. Skipwith, Kidson, Roebuck, Egly, and Thackrah respectively. There was an average attendance of about ten at the meetings, and numerous stamps and collections were exhibited at all of them. Towards the close of the session, a very successful and enjoyable social evening was spent by the members. The membership had increased slightly, and now stood at 27. The fourth rule has been altered, so as to permit of the election of corresponding members, for which only philatelists are eligible who are neither resident nor engaged in regular business in the city, the subscription to be 2s. 6d., including all the benefits of the Exchange Club. The library of the Society has been augmented by a number of

useful works, and has been well used by members. The Exchange Club has been carried on, first by Mr. A. N. Skipwith, and afterwards by his brother, Mr. W. K. Skipwith. Some changes in the exchange rules have been made, the principal one being to make all transactions at net prices. The report referred next to the very successful and interesting exhibition of fiscal stamps held under the Society's auspices, and to the financial deficit it entailed upon the funds; and concluded with a reference to the heavy loss the Society has sustained by the removal of Mr. J. F. C. Sieber, lately one of the hon. secretaries, to Glasgow.

The reports (and the balance-sheet, read by Mr. Egly), were unanimously adopted, and votes of thanks to the president and officers, as well as to the Leeds Free Library for the free tenancy of the meeting-room, were passed.

The question of the best night for meetings was then debated, and eventually it was decided to hold future meetings on the first Monday at 7.30 p.m., and the third Saturday at 6.30 p.m., in each month.

The proceedings closed with the exhibition of numerous stamps—novelties and collections.

All communications should be addressed to the hon. secretaries—

T. K. SKIPWITH,
13, Victoria Road, Hyde Park, Leeds.
JOHN H. THACKRAH,
54, St. Michael's Road, Headingley,
Leeds.

The Market.

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

THERE was a very representative attendance at the sale held on August 28th, and good prices were general. "Records" seem to be a characteristic of our friend in Chancery Lane.

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.				Cape, "woodblock," 4d., dark blue	7	5	0
THERE was a very representative attendance at the sale held on August 28th, and good prices were general. "Records" seem to be a characteristic of our friend in Chancery Lane.				Mauritius, 2d., post paid, rather early plate	6	10	0
				New Brunswick, 1s., mauve	16	0	0
				Nova Scotia, 1s., plum	17	5	0
				New Brunswick, 4d., yellow, and half a 3d. stamp, used on original	4	15	0
Great Britain, V.R., unused	£	s.	d.	Montserrat, 4d., blue, C A	5	12	6
Oldenburg (1858), $\frac{1}{3}$ gros., black on green, unused	6	5	0	St. Lucia, 1s., orange	4	10	0
Tuscany, 1 soldi and 2-2 soldi on piece of envelope	24	0	0	Mexico, 3 centavos, brown	5	15	0
Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, blue, trinacria	16	5	0	St. Lucia, 1s., orange and black	4	4	0
Victoria, 5s., blue on yellow	4	7	0	New Brunswick, 1s., violet	17	15	0
Western Australia, 6d., bronze	5	5	0	St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s.	7	15	0
Mauritius, 1848, 1d., pair in orange shade, on bluish paper, early plate, showing vertical line	28	0	0	Virgin Isles, 1s., double-line frame, unused	5	5	0



THE
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IV.

OCTOBER, 1895.

No. 46.

An Official Swindle.



WORDS almost fail to convey our estimation of the scandalous proceedings of the New South Wales Postal Authorities, as set forth in our pages this month. It was thought that the lowest depths of paltry official speculation in Postal Issues had been touched by Chefoo or Portugal, but it was apparently reserved for one of our leading Colonies to immerse itself still more deeply in the mire of dishonesty.

The issue of the New South Wales stamps surcharged "O. S." for Official Service having been terminated at the beginning of this year, it was thought desirable—assuredly by no one but the Sydney officials—to issue sets of reprints of the superseded series, duly surcharged either "Reprint" or "Specimen." The next proceeding was to sell these sets without the surcharge, and finally to postmark them, in order to remove any suspicion from the collector's mind. There can be no hesitation in plainly denouncing this latter act as a barefaced swindle—as paltry as it is dishonest. It seems unendurable that any Government, worthy of the name, should lend itself to an act that, perpetrated by an individual, would lead to an acquaintance with the wards of a gaol. It is practically certain that the Sydney Postmaster-General knew that these official forgeries would be passed on to innocent collectors, who would thus be inveigled into purchasing worthless rubbish; hence that gentleman and his advisers are therefore plainly accessories before the fact to obtaining money on false pretences.

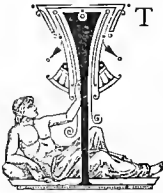
There should be two important results from this scandal. Firstly, the Postmaster-General of New South Wales should be dismissed from his post.

Secondly, the purchase of any of these "forgeries" should be made practically impossible by tabooing them all over the world. We are glad, therefore, to note that the S.S.S.S. has already condemned them in trenchant terms, and we trust that no catalogue or album will sully their pages by the insertion of such varieties as this trash. In any case much mischief is done, and the collection and sale of the New South Wales O.S. stamps of all issues has received a blow that will place its stamps on a very low basis, either commercial or philatelic.

We understand that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has already been addressed on the subject by Major E. B. Evans, and for our part we intend that the views of Philatelists hereon shall be conveyed to all those in authority both here and in Australia.

There has been a curious spirit of unrest in the issues of more than one of the Australian Colonies of late years—first, Tasmania, then Queensland, and now New South Wales—and we are led to the conclusion that the Postmasters are not inaccessible to the persuasive powers of some one not quite disinterested. Evil counsellors like this should be shown the door, and Postmasters be taught to ignore Philatelic(?) wants, and consider only those of the public, whose servants they are.

Sale of Postmarked Reprints by the New South Wales Post Office.



It hardly seems credible that such a disgraceful proceeding, as indicated above, could have been countenanced by any civilized Government; but such is the fact, as set forth by the following extract from the letter of a correspondent, and excerpts from the Australian press. These will speak for themselves, and we have elsewhere in this issue commented upon a transaction that places the New South Wales Postal Authorities, in the estimation of all Philatelists, on the lowest grade of post-office dishonesty.

Under date of August 26th, our correspondent writes:

"I wish to draw your attention (for purposes of publication) to the fact that the Government here have *reprinted* some of their obsolete issues, and surcharged them O.S., and then postmarked them to sell in sets for £2. Nearly all of the old stamps have been reprinted, and certainly all of them had the O.S. surcharges reprinted; with the exception of the current $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 6d., $7\frac{1}{2}$ d., 8d., 1s., $12\frac{1}{2}$ d., these were in stock.



"The cancellation consists of the three circles, with N.S.W. written, being lightly marked in the centre of a block of four. The series given away to Ministers and influential M.P.'s are all cancelled with the circles, but G.P.O. instead of N.S.W. inside, placed in the same manner as four. The envelopes and post cards are also cancelled, as specimen herewith."

The set as sold, including this list, for £2 :

NEW SOUTH WALES.

List of O.S. Postage Stamps, Post Cards, and Stamped Envelopes, showing date of issue of each variety.

ADHESIVE STAMPS.

No.	Value.	Colour.	Watermark.	O.S. in	Date of Issue.
1	1d.	Red	Crown, N.S.W.	Black	1 January, 1880
2	2d.	Blue	Do.	do.	do.
3	3d.	Green	Do.	Red	do.
4	4d.	Brown	Do.	Black	do.
5	6d.	Lilac	Do.	do.	do.
6	8d.	Orange	Do.	Red	do.
7	1s.	Black	Do.	do.	do.
8	5s.	Violet	5/-	Black	15 February, 1880
9	8d.	Orange	Crown, N.S.W.	do.	22 February, 1880
10	3d.	Green	Do.	do.	22 March, 1880
11	5d.	Dark Green	Do.	Red	7 May, 1880
12	9d.	Brown	Do.	Black	31 May, 1880
13	10d.	Lilac	10	do.	do.
14	5d.	Dark Green	Crown, N.S.W.	do.	31 March, 1885
15	5s.	Lilac and Green	N.S.W.	do.	26 May, 1886
16	20s.	Lilac and Red	Do.	do.	7 January, 1887
17	1d.	Purple	Crown, N.S.W.	do.	7 May, 1888
18	2d.	Blue	Do.	do.	7 Sept., 1888
19	4d.	Brown	Do.	do.	15 October, 1888
20	6d.	Rosine	Do.	do.	21 December, 1888
21	8d.	Plum	Do.	do.	15 March, 1889
22	1s.	Purple-Brown	Do.	do.	do.
23	20s.	Blue	5/-	do.	22 November, 1889
24	10s.	Lilac and Carmine	N.S.W.	do.	30 April, 1889
25	5s.	Lilac	5/-	Red	do.
26	5s.	Lilac		Black	15 February, 1890
27	20s.	Blue		do.	15 March, 1890
28	2½d.	Blue	Crown, N.S.W.	do.	10 January, 1891
29	½d.	Black on Grey	Do.	do.	21 January, 1891
30	7½d.	Do. Brown	Do.	do.	do.
31	12½d.	Do. Red	Do.	do.	do.
32	½d.	Grey	Do.	do.	9 May, 1892

POST CARDS.

No.	Value.	Colour.	Description.	Date of Issue.
33	1d.	Pink	Small size, without waratah	1 January, 1880
34	1d.	Do	Large size, with waratah	31 March, 1887
35	1d.	Purple	With arched inscription	31 January, 1889
36	1d.	Do. . . .	With straight inscription	31 January, 1890

STAMPED ENVELOPES.

No.	Value.	Colour.	Description.	Date of Issue.
37	1d.	Red	O.S. overprinted in black	31 August, 1880
38	2d.	Blue	Do	7 May, 1882
39	1d.	Red	O.S. inserted in four angles	7 May, 1885
40	1d.	Purple	O.S. overprinted in black	30 Sept., 1888
41	2d.	Blue	Do. . . .	do.
42	1d.	Purple	O.S. inserted in upper angles	28 Sept., 1888
43	6d.	Lilac	Do. . . .	24 October, 1888
44	6d.	Rosine	Do. . . .	23 May, 1889
45	2d.	Blue	Do. . . .	31 May, 1889
46	4d.	Brown	Do. . . .	8 August, 1892
47	5d.	Green	Do. . . .	26 Sept., 1892

The issue of O.S. Stamps ceased from 1st January, 1895.

[734]

"POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
"GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"22nd July, 1895.

"His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of the balance of O.S. (On Service) Stamps in the hands of this Department remaining unissued, on the substitution of the 'Frank' System for that of pre-payment of official postage by means of O.S. Stamps, being sold to stamp collectors and others at face value, on the understanding that they cannot be used for postage.

"The stamps available for the purpose are: Adhesive stamps (of the same type as the current postage stamps), $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 8d., 1s., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and 5s.; post cards, 1d.

"JOSEPH COOK."

[1182]

"POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,
"GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,

"15th August, 1895.

"His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of the sale to stamp collectors, and others, of complete sets of obliterated O.S. Stamps, at the price of £2 per set.

"JOSEPH COOK."

NOTICES IN THE AUSTRALIAN PRESS.

"POST-OFFICE IRREGULARITIES.

"To the Editor.

"SIR,—It seems that our postal authorities have very peculiar ideas of economy, or even ideas of retaining the dignity necessary for a Colony such as New South Wales.

"A short while ago the Postmaster-General gave instructions to cease illuminating the clock in the tower after a certain hour, on the plea of economy.

"This saving no sooner effected, than they hasten to squander probably more money than they have saved, as well as wasting the time of the employees of the Government Printing-office, in having reprinted a series of stamps of no public use whatever, surcharging them with 'O.S.' (signifying on service, and used prior to January, 1895, in all Government offices). These stamps are not required, and have not been asked for by a single individual, but the postal authorities seem to have an idea that they can sell a tremendous number of these so-called stamps to stamp collectors at £2 per set, postmarked to order, the face value representing over £6.

"The question arises, why should the public money be wasted in this manner? No one asks for this sacrifice, neither is it to supply a long-felt want; and the probability is that not half the number of sets printed will be sold, as stamp collectors look with disgust at what they term fakes and frauds, meaning thereby that they will not have reprints and reprinted postmarks palmed on them as originals. In England, any individual who does this is liable to imprisonment for selling frauds as originals.

"The collectors not buying these bogus or speculative stamps means a loss to the department. Not only that, it is ridiculous to think that a Colony with the pretensions we have in this country descends so low in the scale that the unfortunate Government has to resort to a dubious way of raising a few pounds for revenue sake. It places the Colony on a much lower basis than even such places as Tonga, Samoa, Cook

Islands, and other insignificant little countries, whose principal revenue—small as it is—arises from the sale of new issues and surcharges, but never reprints of their postage stamps; and I doubt very much if there is another British Colony or possession that has attempted to demean itself in this manner.—Yours, etc.,

PHILOS.

“SYDNEY, August 20.”

—*Daily Telegraph*, Wednesday, August 21.

“THE SALE OF OLD STAMPS.

“A correspondent, in our issue of Wednesday, called attention to the fact that the Government Printing-office are printing a number of old stamps, and selling them to stamp collectors at a certain rate. With respect to this matter, the Postal Department point out that they are in the habit of supplying to collectors a table of complete sets of stamps at from £1 to £2 a set. The stamps are obliterated at the Post-office, while across the face of some of them is printed the word ‘Specimen,’ and across the face of others is printed the word ‘Reprint.’ Stamp collectors, however, prefer properly defaced stamps. There is a very large demand for what are known as ‘O. S. stamps, which have ceased to be used, and the Postal Department are selling complete sets of these stamps at their face value, unobliterated, at £5 17s. a set, and slightly obliterated at £2 a set. As much as £60 worth of these ‘O. S.’ stamps have been sold in this way. Collectors have been very desirous of securing these stamps. The ordinary stamps are also being sold by the Department at £1 a set, with the word ‘Specimen’ across the face. Old post cards are also sold by the Department, and official envelopes with obliterated stamps.”—*Daily Telegraph*, August 23. Inspired by the Post-office.

“O. S. STAMPS.

“It does not appear to be generally known that the New South Wales Postal Department, following the example set by the post-offices in other parts of the world, carries on a small but lucrative trade in defaced postage stamps, which, as is well known, are eagerly sought after by stamp collectors. The words ‘specimen’ and ‘reprint’—printed across the face of the stamps—however, greatly detract from their value in the eyes of stamp collectors, and it is possible that some arrangement may be made for obliterating the stamps in the ordinary way. Formerly it was the practice for Government letters to be posted with ordinary stamps, on which had been printed the letters O.S. A short time ago this practice was discontinued, and these O.S. stamps at once rose considerably in value in the eyes of stamp collectors. The postal authorities were besieged by people, who wished to secure specimens of these stamps.

“It may be mentioned that some of the earlier issues of stamps, in this colony, sell for really extravagant sums. Penny, twopenny, and threepenny stamps, of the year 1859, are worth from £2 to £5, and there are one or two old New South Wales stamps which are priced at £50 each.”—*Herald* of 23rd. Inspired by P.O. Authorities.

“TOPICS OF THE DAY, BY ‘OUTIS.’

“The Postmaster-General is credited, or discredited, by a correspondent—who assumes knowledge, even if he has it not—with a desire to turn an honest penny for the public by printing stamps, for sale as curios to those bitten with the philatelic craze. If this is true, and a special issue of stamps that have no other particular

use is being prepared for the foreign market, the department may be acting for the best, and within its charter as a branch of the public service. It does seem a trifle speculative, though; and according to the correspondent in question, it seems a trifle risky. Mr. Cook, it is understood, does not place much dependence upon "luck," in connection with individual affairs, but it is just the element required to make a success of this public undertaking. If the market is dead, through the weariness or repentance of stamp maniacs, as it well might be, this issue may fail to be underwritten, and become as flat a loss to the country as the Carvings; or it may even be regarded with suspicion by the lynx eyes of sleepless philatelic editors, who are continually detecting and exposing attempts to delude untrained stamp lovers with bogus labels from this, that, or the other corner of the earth."—*Daily Telegraph*, Saturday.

"THE STAMP COLLECTORS' CRAZE.

"THE POST-OFFICE CATERS FOR PURCHASERS, AND MAKES A GOOD PROFIT.

"A BOOM EXPECTED IN 'O.S.' STAMPS.

"There is no fad so general as the stamp-collecting craze. It pertains in Great Britain, the Continent, America, India, Australia—in fact, everywhere; and what is more, it is common to peasant and peer alike. Almost fabulous prices are paid for rare specimens, and the demand has created an immense number of professional and amateur collectors.

"Realising that there was money in a trade which was really forced upon them, the New South Wales Postal Department has lately been catering for purchasers. To learn something of the extent and nature of the business, a *Times* representative saw the Postmaster-General during the week.

"'Apart from the second-hand stamp selling, someone has asked us,' the interviewer remarked, 'whether the stamps which are being issued without the Queen's head—those with the emu, lyre bird, kangaroo, &c.—are not, if not illegal, at least irregular?'

"'I don't think that's a point worth taking seriously,' Mr. Cook smilingly answered; 'but as to the sale of reprint stamps, I notice that one critic objects to the Department selling them, except at their face value. Their face value is practically *nil*. When a person pays 2d. for a stamp for a letter in the ordinary way, he gets that much service for it; but when the stamps are out of date, or not used in the same way, they are only worth the paper and the cost of printing. There is a demand for the old stamps, and in reprinting them, and selling at £1 a sheet, the Department makes a good profit. In the same way, when a lot of old stamps were destroyed, some time ago, there was an outcry that the country was losing money thereby, but it only amounted to the cost of printing.'

"'Is it contemplated to make any changes in the pattern or style of the stamps?'

"'No; I don't think so. Any details you wish further will be given you by Mr. Dalgarno.'

"Having been passed on to the obliging Secretary to the Post-office, that gentleman explained matters in detail.

"'We were constantly being bothered,' he said, 'by requests from various persons for specimen sheets of the various stamps issued in the colony. Foreign Consuls, for example, required them to send to headquarters; and there were other applicants, both local and from a distance. This sheet has been issued to supply the demand. It consists of all the stamps issued from 1855 to 1891. They are exact reproductions,

the only difference being, instead of the defacement or obliteration mark which they would receive in passing through the post, the words "specimen" or "reprint" is printed on them. The Department sells these at £1 the sheet. The dealers have been objecting, and are inclined to bar all those bearing the printed words. Their contention is, that none are genuine without the regular defacement. But what could be better for the average collector than the neat, clearly-legible stamps like this, without the dirt and obliteration marks, which, at times, make the characters and peculiarities of the stamp unintelligible?'

"Here it might be remarked that perforation was introduced in 1860; though, in the reproductions, all the stamps—those obsolete, and those now in use—are perforated.

"Who are your principal buyers?"

"Dealers, mostly. But we are sure to have a big demand from England and the Continent when the collectors get to know how we are selling the "O.S." stamps. These were stamps of the ordinary pattern, with the addition of the letters mentioned printed near the top, and all departments of the Service had to use them in forwarding correspondence; but with the abolition of the practice of stamping letters from the various departments, the stamps became obsolete. There always was considerable enquiry for these stamps, as they were more rare, owing to the fact that there were much fewer of them used. The face value of a sheet of them was £5 17s. a set, and we continued—after they were out of use—to sell at that figure to collectors—as much as £60 worth have been sold at that price. Now, however, we are disposing of them in sheets—similar to the others—at £2 per sheet. The new arrangement has only been in vogue for a few days, and £20 has been realised. These stamps are not objected to by the philatelic critics, for they don't bear the fatal words "specimen" or "reprint," but the letters "O.S." at the top, along with a faint obliteration, which makes them look as if they had been through the post. Some of the objectors say that the Department should not enter into such a business; but the public ask for the stamps, and the Department makes a profit, so there is no reason in the objection.'"—*Sunday Times*, 25th August.

Mounting Stamps in Albums.

A NEW SUGGESTION.

By THE EARL OF KINGSTON, PRESIDENT OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.



A GREAT deal has been written from time to time on the subject of stamp albums; many shapes and sizes have been proposed and adopted. Various designs for fastening removable and interchangeable leaves have been invented and patented, and even countersunk spacing is becoming common, &c.; all these devices for the safety and comfort of stamps, shewing that much varied ingenuity has been exercised to render the "up-to-date" album worthy of the requirements of the "up-to-date" collector.

There is an evil, however, to which all albums, whether they happen to be of ancient or most modern construction, are liable, owing to the present

and usual system of mounting the stamps in them; and as far as I am aware, no remedy for its prevention has been suggested.

The "evil" I allude to is the continued risk of damaging stamps while turning over the leaves of an album. Have we not all experienced this trouble, and found that in spite of our every care in "turning over," after the inspection of a page, stamps often get doubled back on their hinges, and are frequently creased?

I think we have, most of us, suffered more or less in this respect, especially when we preserve stamps on "part of original cover"; and in the case of blocks and strips, which necessarily can only be lightly fastened, in order to allow access to the back for inspection of gum, testing the substance of the paper, or seeking identification of watermark—objects undeniably necessary to the ardent Philatelist, who shrinks from taking anything for granted, but requires the testimony of his own senses in order to "believe."

Once more. How often have we trembled to see our treasures surveyed by an inexperienced "hand," and one perhaps belonging to that large majority of persons who have never learned the proper method of turning the leaves of a valuable book!

The evil, as I call it, can be entirely averted by mounting the stamps on the *left-hand pages* of the albums, instead of on the right-hand pages, as we usually see done at present. Mounted thus on the left hand, the stamps coming into view on the turning of a fresh leaf may be in a state of disarray, but can be quickly and easily rearranged in proper position as they lie before us; and once replaced they will remain *in situ*, unaffected by the moving of the succeeding pages, as the inspection of the collection is proceeded with. There need be no "looking back" at past pages to see that all is right. I have given this system a trial, and am convinced that is an improvement on the present method.

Publishers might, if the suggestion meets favour, be induced to bind some of their albums so that the spacing for stamps may be on the left side, and the letterpress, &c., on the right.

The Lithographic Errors of Oldenburg.

BY M. P. CASTLE AND R. EHRENBACH.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON, *October 18th, 1895.*



SINGULARLY able and interesting Handbook upon the stamps of all the several Confederated States of Germany has been in course of issue for the past two years, entitled *The Permanent Handbook, Illustrated by Lithography*, and published by Herr Hugo Krötzsch, of Leipsic. It appears in instalments, apparently as finished by the able Philatelists who act in collaboration. The work contains a large number of official notices, copious notes by leading German Philatelic authors

and collectors, and an excellent reference list of the different varieties. A very important feature consists of the illustrations, which are reproduced by photo-lithography, and are of such remarkable clearness that they practically serve for purposes of comparison and identification, as well as would the identical stamps themselves. It can readily therefore be understood how invaluable is a book like this to the student of the Teutonic school of collecting, by which he can ascertain by description and illustration—both equally accurate—everything connected with his especial hobby, from the number of roulettes on a stamp, to the smallest variety of obliteration. As regards these latter, great prominence has been given; for example, no less than thirteen pages of illustrations of the postmarks of Oldenburg are presented.

From the general high standard of the work, and these evidence that nothing has been apparently too small to describe or illustrate, we had been led to anticipate a considerable accession to our knowledge of probably the two most difficult and interesting countries of the German Empire—Oldenburg and Wurtemberg. The latter has not yet appeared, but we regret that as regards the former our anticipations, as to one issue, have been far from realised. We allude especially to the issue of 1861, coloured impression on white paper, upright rectangular. On page 403 of the Handbook, after having considered the subject of dates of issue, separate printings, &c., Herr Paul Ohrt, who is the author of the paper, comes to the question of the “So-called Errors,” and, to our astonishment, writes of them as follows:

“So-called errors, with respect to the lettering, have been ‘discovered’ even more in the 3rd issue than in the 2nd issue, as in the former, in addition to the presence of little bits of paper and so on (*sic*), the usually defective printing enables people gifted with a powerful imagination to see the most wonderful things in indistinct or contracted letters. In accordance with my remarks on the 2nd issue, it is possible that a letter (let me hope without ‘subsequent help’) may have by chance not been printed on the sheet, thus producing the error, ‘Dritte,’ instead of ‘Drittel’ (Major Evans gives this error of the $\frac{1}{3}$ gr.). It is, however, an impossibility to try and make out of a blobbed or deformed letter—of which a part may not have caught the ink—one quite different, *i.e.* out of a deformed ‘c’ an OLDENBURO ($\frac{1}{3}$ gr.), out of an ‘n’ an OLDEIBURG ($\frac{1}{3}$ gr. and 3 gr.), out of an ‘l’ a DritteB, or Dritted ($\frac{1}{3}$ gr.), out of an ‘e’ a Dritto ($\frac{1}{3}$ gr.), out of an ‘r’ an OLDENBURG (2 gr.), out of a ‘b’ an OLDENDURG (3 gr.).

“Every thorough and earnest collector will admit that all these faulty impressions, made by one and the same die on the plate, owing to the manner in which they are produced, could not be classified as *bonâ-fide* errors worthy of collection. Should anyone, nevertheless, wish to collect these ‘abnormities,’ which are easily accounted for by the lithographic process, I can only caution him against forgeries, and advise him to be very careful in his selection and the prices he may pay therefor.”

Another article upon the Oldenburg stamps has now appeared in the columns of the *Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung*, August 1, 1895, in which Herr Ohrt further emphasises his views as regards these “errors,” and, in our opinion, makes his position more untenable than ever by the ignorance he displays of his subject. For convenience of reference we think it advisable to take his paragraphs *seriatim*, and have therefore interpolated numerals in the translation of his remarks, which correspond with our comments.

Herr Ohrt's article bears as title, "The So-called Errors," and, *inter alia*, embraces the following remarks—

"THE SO-CALLED ERRORS.

"(1) The most exhaustive proofs fail to combat erroneous ideas that have once been accepted as correct. For example, in the columns of a new catalogue, I see that the faulty transfers of the 2nd and 3rd issues have again been inserted as errors, and priced at most absurd figures. The belief in these errors is, however, artificially kept up by some of their owners. According to my views, as real errors, only mistakes of colour (*e.g.*, Saxony $\frac{1}{2}$ blue, Baden 9 kr. green), errors of lettering (*e.g.*, $2\frac{1}{2}$ Lübeck on 2 sh.) should be thus classified. To this latter class the Oldenburg errors would belong, but this would indicate that an error of inscription was to be found on the original stone.

"(2) There are, however, some poor creatures who actually believe that the Oldenburg stamps are printed with single loose letters, like the small letters on the side labels of the 1st issue of Wurtemberg, and were such the case Oldenburg errors might be possible. It could however be at once ascertained from any practical printer that all Oldenburg stamps of the first three issues are printed on a stone, as was explained to me by the proprietor in the printing-office of Gerh. Stalling, in the town of Oldenburg. There also existed a communication from the Oldenburg postal authorities to those of Luxemburg, about the time when the 2nd issue with its so-called errors was in use, in which the precise method of producing these stamps is explained. According to this, one original stone (?) die was made and printed on to Chinese paper, from which it was transferred 100 times on to the stone. This plate can therefore contain no transfer with a letter that is not on the original die.

"(3) All the so-called errors, as OLDENBURO, OLBENBURG, OLDEIBURG, &c., are, as a matter of fact, either *faked* by erasures or ink marks, and so on—this is the case with most of them—or else they are not errors, but simply defective impressions. Little things, for instance a scrap of paper taken up by the roller, can produce a small spot, where the ink does not take; in this case it would happen that part of a letter like the lower part of a 'g' is omitted—with a little imagination, and perhaps a little manual assistance, an 'o' appears! That anyone could, however, pay three or four times the price of an original for this, is quite incomprehensible to me.

"(4) Once only have I seen a spoilt or damaged transfer of a $\frac{1}{3}$ gr., issue iii., which Freiherr C. v. G. sent me, which seemed to be deformed previously on the stone, although it constitutes no real error."

The author here proceeds to explain how this occurred, through a fold being in one of the transfers of Chinese paper, and that through this fold, the "l" of Drittel was pushed into the "g" of groschen, thus making it appear as "Dritte lGroschen"; concluding by saying that if this theory were correct, this error would appear once on every sheet of that printing—800–1000 sheets being struck off—and that he would not be astonished if other collectors should find specimens of these curiosities.

Herr Ohrt finally winds up by stating that, in accordance with the views likewise held by his friend, Freiherr C. von G——, he does not even consider that such a variety as that last cited entitles it in any way to lay claim to classification as a genuine error.

Since the appearance of the foregoing article Messrs. Senf's catalogue has appeared, and although it contains an excellent list of the Oldenburg stamps,

in which the main varieties of the first issues are carefully noted, the varieties in the third issue are contemptuously ignored, and, from the tenor of the foot-note accompanying the article, it may not be an unreasonable assumption that Herr Ohrt was the presiding genius on this occasion also.

It is therefore patent that, inspired by writers of such proved ability as Herr Paul Ohrt and the publishers of the *Handbook*, a determined set has been made against the inclusion of these varieties in the catalogue of the future. It has, therefore, seemed to us an appropriate time to enter the lists in defence of stamps that have, from the earliest days of Philately, been recognised as genuine and interesting varieties.

Taking Herr Ohrt's paragraphs in succession, we commence with :—

(1) There are, of course, various classes of errors, arising from the wrong uses, either of the paper, the colour of the impression, the dies, or of portions thereof. As regards the latter class, errors are found, owing to the insertion of a wrong die in the plate or stone, as Cape of Good Hope, Peru—Medio Peso, &c. Others consist of the erroneous insertion of a portion of the movable parts of the die, as Sweden "Trettio ore," red; Lübeck two-and-a-half schilling; United States inverted centres, &c.; and Spain inverted frames. Others, again, from the *omission* of a movable portion of the design, as San Domingo, issue ii., blue, &c.; others through mistakes made by the engraver on metal engraved plates, such as the first issue of Philippines—1 real "Corros"; the Sydney Views and laureated issues of New South Wales, &c. It is obvious, therefore, that there are many classes of "errors," and we think that some definition of the expression error is desirable as a basis of argument.

A stamp, whether ultimately reproduced by typography, lithography, or any other method than by separate hand engraving (in which case each necessarily constitutes a variety), *must have a normal condition or standard*. This is represented by the matrix, or parent die, used for the purposes of reproduction. Any subsequent reproduction of this, that varies *in the relative position of any portion* of the design, must therefore be an error; *i.e.*, a deviation from the standard, varying necessarily in importance. It will be observed that, by the words we have emphasized, defective impressions, such as caused by heavy inking, superficial matter adhering to the plate, or uneven striking, are eliminated, and it seems to us that Herr Ohrt has failed to apply a like discrimination in apportioning the respective elements that constitute an "error."

In the concluding sentence of paragraph 1, Herr Ohrt says that classing these stamps with the Lübeck errors would mean "that an error of inscription was to be found on the original stone." This is precisely what it does mean, and as it exists. Herr Ohrt himself, later on, shows their very *raison d'être* in the method adopted for reproduction of the original *die*.

(2) We fancy that the "poor creatures" alluded to by Herr Ohrt are only phantasms of his imagination, and that there are very few collectors who have given a little study to the Oldenburg stamps of the third issue but would at once recognise the fact of their lithographic origin. The information afforded by the printers is interesting to the highest degree, as it not only officially proves the manner of production, but clearly indicates how these

errors arose, whose existence Herr Ohrt is at such pains to deny. From the original die (which is stated to be engraved on "stone") *separate prints* were made (as is frequently the practice) on to Chinese paper, and these were then transferred on to the stone, to the number of 100, and subsequently printed from. It is in the delicate and difficult process of this very transfer that these errors were created, and Herr Ohrt's statement, that "this plate can therefore contain no transfer with a letter that is not on the original die," is ludicrously beside the mark, and indeed misses the whole point of the information he has himself adduced. If Herr Ohrt had seen and studied any number of these errors, as he should have done before condemning them, he would have recognised that the so-called varieties of letters, "d" for "l," "I" for "N," and so forth, are only generic descriptions, and that the letters are really only abortions, more nearly resembling the former than the latter items of the alphabet. The several varieties, however, are fully described later on. It is of course obvious that these errors arose from defective manipulation of the transfer paper on to the lithographic stone, to which in some cases it was not sufficiently firmly affixed, and that therefore, occasionally, portions of the design became pushed or rucked together, thereby altering the relative positions of the lettering, or other portions of the design, as in the case of the octagonal fourpenny of West Australia. In the pressure incidental to printing from the stone these defects, or primarily *projecting* portions of the design, became naturally firmly and flatly fixed; and hence the subsequent printings *of that transfer* present the same varieties, and these varieties must have been present on every sheet. We have seen a strip of 5 of the $\frac{1}{3}$ s.g., green, from the bottom of the sheet, one of which was an error (the narrow E, our error No. 1 on illustration), and the other four normal specimens. Another significant circumstance, which has not apparently been considered worthy of mention by Herr Ohrt, is that these errors occur only in certain printings, as mentioned in the paper read before this Society on the 10th February, 1893, by Mr. Ehrenbach. The varieties on the $\frac{1}{3}$ s.g. are all found in the pale bluish-green, and on the 3 in the full gamboge-yellow, both being of the woolly or indistinct printing, that would seem to have been the first struck. We have examined nearly a hundred specimens of the well-known moss-green colour, but have never found the slightest deviation from the matrix die in this, or indeed in any other value or shade beyond those now submitted. It is therefore clear that these varieties only existed in certain transfers from the original die, from which they are undoubtedly deviations "in error," exactly the same, if in a less degree, as are the inverted frames of Spain, or centres of United States, which are also errors arising from a faulty reproduction of the original die. In each case the divergence arose from the negligence of the workers, and whether the original design was transferred from stone to stone, or metal to metal, does not touch the question. The plate from which any of the forenamed stamps were printed presents certain constant varieties which are not on the matrix, and which, being abnormal specimens, are certainly "errors," not of printing, as suggested by Herr Ohrt, but errors caused by imperfect stones. A reference

to the specimen of the 1 sg. (illustration No. o) will shew how easily, in the case of these stamps, the Chinese transfer paper came to grief. In the left upper angle a defect will be seen in the outer frame, palpably caused by a piece of the transfer paper having been folded back.

(3) As regards the absurd hypothesis set up by Herr Ohrt, as to these varieties having been made by hand to deceive collectors, we can only say that it is evident he has never seen or studied the several varieties. The examination of the specimens shown by us (as illustrated), and their description, will amply refute his entirely erroneous conceptions on this point. In this paragraph he alludes to the fact that some people place the value of these varieties at three or four times that of the normal specimens. It is not within our province to enter upon the financial aspect of the question, although we consider the estimate fully justified, but it raises a point which we had fondly hoped to have seen elucidated in the chapter on Oldenburg in the *Kröttsch Handbook*, i.e. the number and position of these errors on the sheet. As Mr. Ohrt was informed by the printer, the sheet consisted of 100 specimens. It is obvious that, being caused by the transfer paper "rucking up" in various manners on the stone, no two errors can be exactly alike, and that therefore all are of equal rarity, i.e. one in a hundred. In the $\frac{1}{3}$ s.g., green, as far as we know, there are seven, and in the 3 s.g. yellow, 3 distinct varieties, each of which is naturally respectively 93 or 97 times as rare as its fellows. It would seem, therefore, that their estimation at 400 pc. above the usual specimens is exceedingly moderate. Judging by our experience in searching for these errors, this relative degree of rarity is fully borne out, these varieties only being met with at rare intervals. It would be of much interest if, by the examination of pairs, strips, and marginal stamps, the respective position of these several varieties could be allocated.

(4) The description of the stamp submitted to Herr Ohrt by Freiherr C. v. G. evidently refers to one of these varieties in which the doubling of the Chinese paper produced a broken or contracted frame. We hardly gather what he means in saying that "it cannot be that the fold was only on the piece of paper; otherwise one might have smoothed out the fold, when a white space would show between the two parts of the stamp." There is, naturally, no white or unprinted space on the impression from the original die on the Chinese paper, the fold on the stone simply pushing up together a portion of the submerged design of one of these dies, "which were, of course, all faultless (!)

SCHEDULE OF THE ERRORS.

The illustrations of the $\frac{1}{3}$ and 3 s.g. marked "o" are normal, for purposes of comparison. The 1 and 3 s.g. on the bottom line are also normal, except where indicated by the pointing arrow.

No. 1. *The Narrow "D."*

The outer frame on the top to the left-hand is indented for a distance of 3 mm., the break being continued down the left-hand side of the stamp for a space of $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. There is also a slight break in the frame at the bottom, extending to $2\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from the left-hand. In the inscription below there is only about 1 mm. between the nearest points of the "n" of Ein

and "D" of Drittel, instead of $1\frac{1}{2}$ as usual. The latter letter slopes sharply to the right, and, instead of a thick front vertical stroke, has only a very thin one, placed close and almost parallel to the curved back stroke.

No. 2. The "Dritto."

A break in the upper outer line, 7 mm. from the left, causes the "E" in OLDENBURG to appear very narrow and close to the "N." The cross above the crown is also contracted and bent. Another bolder break, in the lower outer line at the bottom (5-6 mm.), is likewise visible. The chief defect is a very great break in the bottom band, which actually divides this band into two portions, the portion on the right touching the middle oval, and the left part being so much lower as to cut into the "G" of Groschen, and so contracting the letters "e" and "l" as to condense them into an "o." The ornament immediately above "osc" of groschen touches the central oval.

No. 3. The slanting "G."

A break in the bottom outer frame, at a distance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm., on the right, lifts the "G" in Groschen right up, and makes it stand very much over to the right.

No. 4. The "Oldeiburg."

An apparent fold in the transfer paper makes the "N" in OLDENBURG resemble an "I," as if the three arms of the "N" had been contracted *à la* concertina. There is also a contraction—from the same cause—of the upright portion of the cross of the crown, which latter also suffers in its proportions. There is also a slight break in the central oval above the word "drittel."

No. 5. The short "L."

In this variety there is an apparent contraction of the transfer paper extending vertically the whole depth of the stamp, reducing its width by about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. Its effects are: the "L" of OLDENBURG is short, without a head, and almost touches the "O"; the left-hand side of the central oval has a break of about 2 mm.; the left-hand outer edges and shapes of the Crown and Shield are oval-formed, and the word Ein and the "D" of Drittel are pushed close together.

No. 6. The small "O" and the narrow "G."

The first "O" in OLDENBURG is scarcely half the standard size, due to a break in the oval. Under the "G" of Groschen is another break, in the lower outer frame, 11 mm. from the left, contracting the "G" to a very narrow and attenuated size. The bottom of the shield is also malformed.

No. 7. The "Drittd."

The break in this variety is best perceivable in the lowest point of the coat of arms, which slants quite to the right. The upshot of the break is the contraction of the "e" and "l" of Drittel into an apparent but malformed "d."

THE 3 GROSCHEN.

The errors in this value are :

1. *The narrow "E."*

The break, which causes the smallness and indistinctness of the "E" in OLDENBURG is best visible in the top portion of the upper band of inscription at a distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the left. The letter slants upwards, and is quite deformed.

2. *The "Oldeiburg."*

This tallies more or less with the corresponding error described as No. 4 in the $\frac{1}{3}$ groschen varieties; but the "I" is not so big as in that case, and the break in the outer frame above is also very prominent, and is continued to the oval below. The "r" of Groschen also leans to the left.

3. *The Broken Frame.*

A break on the right-hand outer line of the frame at $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the top apparently causes the "R" in OLDENBURG to appear a trifle narrower than in the ordinary specimens of this value. The faulty appearance of this frame is perceptible for two-thirds of its length.

Besides the errors described above, smaller variations are to be found in other specimens, probably, however, mostly due to too much or too little use of the inking materials. In the $\frac{1}{3}$ gr. the "E" in OLDENBURG may appear to be only partly printed; in the 2 gr. the lettering reading more like OLDENBUUG than OLDENBURG; and in the 3 gr. the left-hand figure 3 sometimes is practically an 8.*

It is obvious that some of these last-described "divergencies" are of relatively small consequence, and hardly claim to be catalogued as varieties, although the specialist will not ignore them in gathering together a complete collection of the Oldenburg Issues. They are, however, due to careless printing from *normal* type, and are altogether removed from those arising from *constant* defective dies.

There is, however, one rather interesting variety whose existence is apparently *not* due to defective or careless impressions, as it is found on both the clear and the "woolly" printings. The variety consists in the numeral in the right-hand oval of the 1 s.g., blue (illustrations 1a and 1b), which has a pointed instead of a flat top, and is consequently a full half a millimetre higher. The shape of the figure is beyond question, and once noted offers a marked contrast to its opposite neighbour. It is by no means common, our united endeavours during a long period having only succeeded in finding about half a dozen of these pointed figures. It is, therefore, safe to assume that but one of these varieties is to be found on each sheet, both on the clear and indistinct printings. We have seen quite a number of dated specimens of this value, in which the dates overlap, and this fact opens up a further field of enquiry as to whether a fresh transfer was ever made of the 1 s.g.

* Since writing above, the illustrations have afforded us a better chance of examining the yellow stamps, and we purpose at an early date to add some remarks, especially as regards the last-mentioned variety, which palpably differs in several material respects.—M. P. C., and R. E.

The tendency of the evidence is to show that there was only one transfer of this value, and that the different printings were in issue simultaneously, but we are of opinion that the last word on the production of this Issue generally has by no means been said.

It cannot be denied that this series of stamps, which has been before the Philatelic public for nearly thirty-five years, with its handsome design and brilliant colouring, is one worthy of the attention of all Teutonic specialists; and in the hope that our remarks may increase the deserved estimation in which the stamps of Oldenburg are held, we proffer our Notes, which are purely the result of extended examination of our own specimens, to the indulgent criticism of our brother Philatelists, both in this country and that of their origin.

THE

Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

Circular No. 3.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.,

October, 1895.



THE Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the Stamps and other Postal matter mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of Philatelists, and appeal to all Collectors and Dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

9. NEW SOUTH WALES. The Post Office Department of New South Wales is now offering for sale Adhesive Stamps, Post Cards, and Stamped Envelopes bearing the letters O.S. This is the worst case we have yet had to consider. The following are the official notices: (a)

NEW SOUTH WALES.

(The List is given in detail on p. 251.)

The issue of O.S. Stamps ceased from 1st January, 1895.

COPY.

POSTAL AND ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT,

(1182)

GENERAL POST OFFICE, SYDNEY,

15th August, 1895.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has approved of the sale to Stamp Collectors and others of complete sets of obliterated O.S. Stamps, at the price of £2 per set.

(Signed)

JOSEPH COOK.

Such Stamps, &c., are no longer available for postage; but these impressions, or some portion of them (either the Stamps, or the overprint, or both) have been made *since* the Stamps they represent became obsolete, and not only do they not bear any indication of their real nature, but they are being offered for sale obliterated with a hand-stamp consisting of the letters N.S.W. in three concentric ellipses, thereby inducing Collectors to suppose that they have actually been employed for postage.

10. TRANSVAAL. A Commemorative Stamp of the value of 1d., rose (oblong), has recently been issued, which is quite unnecessary for legitimate postal requirements.

Commemorative Stamps have also been announced to be about to appear for the following places, and Collectors and Dealers are therefore warned beforehand concerning them:

11. GREECE (Olympian Games). 12. HUNGARY (Millennium Stamps).
13. LIEGE.

GORDON SMITH, *Secretary, S.S.S.S.*

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,

Secretary to the Special Committee, London Philatelic Society.

We have much pleasure in giving publicity to the following communication, which shews that with characteristic energy our American brother Philatelists have thrown themselves into the forefront of the "Crusade," by addressing personally the South and Central American Governments, that have done so much by their vicious example to degrade Philately. We cordially wish all success to our trans-Atlantic *confrères*, and congratulate the pioneers of the new movement on this redoubtable accession to their ranks.

Committee on Suppression of Speculative Stamps

OF NATIONAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY,
NEW YORK, AND AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

NEW YORK, *September 30th, 1895.*

MR. M. P. CASTLE, Editor, *London Philatelist.*

DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of the above Committee, held on Friday, September 27th, 1895, it was moved and carried, "That the petition be sent to the various Philatelic Journals, in order to give it the widest possible publicity."

I take pleasure in sending you herewith enclosed a copy of the petition above mentioned for publication, or such other use as you may deem proper.

Very truly yours, JOS. S. RICH, *Secretary.*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

The Committee appointed by the National Philatelic Society, and the Philatelic Society, New York, to devise ways for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, have accepted the petition prepared by its Sub-committee for presentation to the various South American Governments.

We annex the full text of the petition in English, the original being printed in Spanish, and a copy forwarded to the President, Cabinet, Postal Officials, and Leading Statesmen in the various South and Central American countries which are under, or likely to be influenced by, speculative issues of postage stamps.

On behalf of a large constituency of stamp dealers and stamp collectors, the undersigned representatives of Philatelists of all nations respectfully present the following petition for a discontinuance of the prevailing practice of frequently and unnecessarily changing issues of postage stamps.

We are informed that the Governments which have adopted this practice believe that it is justified by the money-saving which results, because they are able to arrange with the engraver or manufacturer of the issues to take their entire surplus, or waste, in full payment of his services as printer. We respectfully suggest that this belief is an error. On the contrary, the Governments are certain to lose, rather than to profit, by a continuance of the practice, and that mainly for two reasons:

(1) Because, if the Governments would themselves retain the entire control of their stamp issues, and monopolize the sale thereof, the Philatelists would buy large quantities direct from them at face value, instead of going to the printer, and the aggregate returns from Government sales to stamp dealers and stamp collectors would far exceed in amount any reasonable cash compensation which the printers would fairly charge.

(2) Because the growth of this practice, which has converted the manufacturer into a stamp speculator, and has placed the Governments in a false attitude, as confederates and abettors in this speculation, has aroused world-wide discontent and indignation among philatelists; so that hundreds of Philatelic Societies have determined to refuse a market to these speculative stamps, and have branded the issues as Philatelic bastards. The result is, or soon will be, that the practice will defeat its own commercial purpose, as a means of making the postage stamp a saleable article of merchandise.

But, wholly irrespective of the financial side of the question, we appeal to the Governments to discontinue the practice on higher grounds—on grounds of political morality, or, what the practical politician would prefer to call, political expediency. For there can be no doubt that the resort to this practice tends to weaken the credit of the Governments which support it. The inference which is commonly drawn, is that Governments resort to this practice only when they are too poor to pay in cash for the services of the manufacturers.

If, in reply to this, it is said that those who deal in and purchase stamps are too insignificant a class to affect public opinion, we respectfully warn against the fallacy of this estimate of the number, character, and influence of the community of Philatelists. The stamp dealers and collectors are numbered, not by hundreds or thousands, but by millions. The devotees of Philately are not confined to any one country; they are to be found in large numbers in every civilized nation on the face of the globe. Nor are they insignificant in character or influence; they are naturally to be found in those ranks of society which represent education and enlightenment, because the uneducated cannot be intelligent collectors. And not only crowned heads and members of royal and princely houses are among the enthusiasts, but also the princes of finance—notably such bankers as the Rothschilds.

Is it a matter of indifference then to a Government what this large and influential class of Philatelists thinks of its financial standing? Can it be indifferent to a nation to be regarded as so poverty-stricken that it cannot pay the ordinary expenses of its postal office?

The Philatelic Societies have declared war against what are now known as "speculative" issues. They have branded these issues as unworthy of a place in postage stamp collections. They have bound themselves to refuse a market to these issues, and have thus rendered them practically unsaleable, except directly by the Governments. They have denounced the practice of issuing them as irregular, illegitimate, and immoral.

In the face of this widespread denunciation, and of this open declaration of war, what is the statesmanlike policy of the Governments? Is it not to discontinue at once and thereafter the objectionable practice?

One of the most prominent manufacturers—we refer to Mr. N. F. Seebeck, of the Hamilton Bank Note Co.—has already publicly proclaimed himself a convert to the now widespread prejudice against the speculative issue, although he will probably be the chief sufferer by its discontinuance. The tide of public opinion has set in too strongly against the practice to warrant his further resistance. And the Philatelists have prevailed upon him to declare publicly that, if he could honourably cancel his engagements with the various Governments, and receive a binding assurance that no similar contracts would be entered into with any other manufacturer, he would gladly consent to annul any subsisting contracts which are objectionable on the grounds above stated. But, naturally, such cancellation on his part must be preceded by a request on the part of the Governments who constitute the other parties to his agreements.

We therefore respectfully and earnestly petition your honourable Government to give this matter immediate and serious attention, and not only to take the steps necessary to cancel subsisting contracts for the issue of the speculative stamps, *i.e.* stamps which are paid for by surrender of balances to the printer, as compensation for the printing of the issue, but also to enact such laws, or establish such postal regulations, as will render impossible a repetition of the practice of printing stamps expressly for other than their ostensible and legitimate use.


In any event, we assure you, on behalf of the Philatelic Societies, and of the large Philatelic world which they represent, of our most sincere respect, and we trust that you will appreciate the friendly and cordial spirit which prompts this respectful petition.

Signed,	WILLIAM HERRICK, <i>Chairman.</i>	JOSEPH S. RICH, <i>Secretary.</i>
	J. M. ANDREINI.	R. R. BOGERT.
	G. B. CALMAN.	ALVAH DAVISON.
	H. E. DEATS.	F. W. HUNTER.
		J. W. SCOTT.

Occasional Notes.

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

UR readers will share with us our great gratification in being able to announce the continued improvement in the health of the esteemed President. A most serious operation was undergone by Lord Kingston a few weeks since, which has hitherto been attended by the most gratifying results, and we are enabled to state from personal experience that his lordship is at present in the enjoyment of better health and spirits than has been the case for many months past. A pleasing evidence that his sufferings have not invalidated his Philatelic proclivities is evidenced by the interesting Note that Lord Kingston has contributed to the current issue of the *London Philatelist*.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF SPECULATIVE STAMPS.

WE hear that this most laudable Society is making rapid progress, and that its membership now includes names from almost every quarter of the world. It may, however, be as well to remind those nearer home, and especially the members of the London and other Philatelic Societies, that their co-operation is also wished, that the annual subscription is expressly made almost nominal (5s.), and that the name and address of the Secretary—as courteous as indefatigable—is Mr. Gordon Smith, 391, Strand, W.C.

 AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WE have not had much in the way of novelties to notice during the past few weeks. Queensland is keeping up her recently-gained character of a novelty purveyor by printing the halfpenny, altered die, on both "Beer Duty" and *buréllé* paper. It is alleged that another shipment of Crown Q paper failed to arrive when expected, hence the recourse to provisional paper; but it seems only reasonable to conclude that one variety would have been sufficient to meet the contingency, the Beer Duty paper having already been condemned on account of its objection to "sticking to" the envelope.

In New Zealand the letter cards have appeared in a bewildering variety of shades—not of the stamp, but of the card. Buff, green, lavender, grey, with a number of sub-shades, eleven in all, are issued to bring joy into the heart of the *Ganzsachen* collector. I am of opinion that the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps should at once denounce all but one colour of card.

The S.S.S.S. must bring its heaviest guns to bear on the barbarian hosts of Tongatabu, that all true Philatelists may learn to tabu Tonga! Not content with issuing sundry "surcharge" absurdities to represent such rates as 1½d. and 7½d., the guardian genius of the Tonga Post-office has rung the changes on red and black surcharges, and used varying types and colours of stamps to bear those inflictions. Now the set bearing the portrait of King George II., which he condemned on account of the libellous misrepresentation of his noble countenance, has been "temporarily" issued. It is very true that when the vices of civilisation find a habitation in savage countries, they flourish with a vigour unparalleled in the "country of origin."

The New South Wales Government has issued an official list of the O.S. stamps, giving dates of issue and particulars as to colour of surcharge, watermark, etc. I send a copy, from which it will be seen that thirty-two distinct varieties of adhesives, and fifteen cards and envelopes were issued. When it is considered that some four or five varieties of perforation may be found on each adhesive, and there are varieties to be formed from differently spaced lettering, it will be conceded that a full collection of New South Wales official stamps is no small matter.

New Issues.

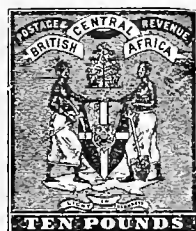
NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—We annex illustrations of the more or less needful issue chronicled on page 220.



BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—In addition to the list of stamps with overprint "British East Africa" mentioned last month, we learn of the current 2 anna envelope with the same surcharge.

Envelope. 2 annas, blue.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.—We have received a set of postage due surcharges from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., but the issue is of so glaringly a speculative nature that we pass on.

CEYLON.—We have a new permanent type of envelope, 5 cents, from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. The stamp is of upright, rectangular shape, with "CEYLON POSTAGE" at top, "5 CENTS" at base; the usual profile of Queen occupies the centre; the envelope is made of laid paper, and bears imprint under flap, "Government Printing Office, Ceylon," in blind letters.

Envelope. 5 c., blue on white, 107 × 134 mm.

GOLD COAST.—We find several of our contemporaries have fallen into our error by chronicling what should have been a £1 Zululand adhesive, under this head. We much regret the oversight.

GRENADA.—We illustrate a new type of adhesive, which, we believe, came into use at the end of July. The present values are:



*Adhesives. 2½ pence, lilac and blue.
3 " lilac and orange.
6 " lilac and green.
8 " lilac and black.
1s., green and orange.*

GREAT BRITAIN.—With reference to our notice, on page 220, of two types of the envelope stamps, one with five pearls in the date plugs, and one with nine pearls, the *Philatelic Record* clears up the mystery by explaining that the floret has usually consisted of nine pearls, arranged as follows: Four large ones, with a smaller one in the centre, placed in the form of a cross, and then four minute ones are introduced into the vacant spaces, close to the edge of the white circle. The floret plugs are no part of the die, being movable, and in some sets the engraver appears to have omitted the minute pearls.

INDIA.—The *Monthly Journal* reproduces the following "Postal Notice":—

"On and after the 1st September, 1895, postage stamps of the values of R 2, R 3, and R 5 respectively, will be available for sale to the public at post-offices.

(Signed) "A. U. FANSHAWE,

"Director-General of the Post-office of India.

"CALCUTTA, the 5th August, 1895."

We shall hope to illustrate these shortly.

*Adhesives.
2 r., yellow-brown; centre rose-carmine.
3 r., green; centre dark brown.
5 r., violet; centre ultramarine.*

On page 144 we noted that the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 anna envelopes, in order to reduce stock, had been surcharged "On H M S." We are now indebted to Mr. P. Lee Warner for pointing out the fact that the surcharge included "ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE," underlined by a continuous black line, reading from the top left-hand corner, to verify which he kindly sends specimens.

MAURITIUS.—For more than a year we have heard rumours of a new issue of adhesives, but *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste* has news of its near approach, and describes the issue as one applicable to both postal and revenue purposes, with the inscription "MAURITIUS POSTAGE AND REVENUE," and the values are to be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 50 cents; 1 rupee, 2 r. 50 c., 5 and 10 rupees. Will they be of similar design to the now very general Colonial type? We hope so.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—A notice, emanating from the Post-office at Sydney, dated July 22nd, says that the stamp on the letter cards of $1\frac{1}{2}$ pence is to be modified. It will differ from that now current in the figures of value, and the addition beneath the centre circle of a tablet, bearing the words "PENNY. HALF PENNY."—*Le C. de T.-P.*

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Perak.*—On page 221 we chronicled a 2 c., orange, adhesive. Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. inform us that no such stamp exists. We have from the same firm, and also from Mr. Douglas Garth, specimens of the new type for the various States mentioned on



page 194, and of which we append illustrations. We shall only chronicle such specimens as we have actually seen, although there is little doubt all are now current.

PERAK.

Adhesives. 1 c., lilac and green.
2 c., lilac and brown.
3 c., lilac and carmine.
5 c., lilac and mustard.
8 c., lilac and blue.
10 c., lilac and orange.
50 c., lilac and slate.

SELANGOR.

3 c., lilac and carmine.
5 c., lilac and mustard.
10 c., lilac and orange.
8r., blue-green and yellow-green(?).
85, green and blue.

QUEENSLAND.—Mr. W. Hadlow sends us a specimen of a third provisional issue of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. adhesive, which was printed on thin unwatermarked paper, but with a Q and Crown embossed on the face of the stamp (which, by the way, appears very indistinct); and further, the 1s. adhesive is having its turn, and, as a start, the Beer duty paper has been issued unwatermarked.

Adhesives. $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, Q and Crown embossed on face.
1s., mauve; Beer duty paper; no wmk.

TURKS ISLAND.—By an oversight, what should have been a chronicle of a second size of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. envelope for this island got mixed up with Straits Settlements. We therefore repeat the notice.

Envelope. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., ultramarine, on white laid. 190x95 mm.

VICTORIA.—Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. send us a 2s. stamp in the type of the 8d. of 1885, printed in green. This was issued on August 12th, but was withdrawn on August 20th, in consequence of its similarity to the colour of the current 9d. stamp; perforation $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Adhesive. 2s., pale green; wmk. V and Crown.

EUROPE.

BULGARIA.—The *A. J. of Ph.* notes a new 5 stotinki unpaid stamp, of similar type to the 1893 issue, but having the letters of the inscription in the labels larger, and the figure 5 has a double-lined frame, pelure paper, perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 5 stot., orange.

MONTENEGRO.—We have from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. a Registered Letter stamp of 10 nov., printed in two colours on white wove paper; perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Registration Stamp. 10 nov., blue and pink.

AMERICA.

GUATEMALA.—According to the *A. J. of Ph.*, the 5 and 10 centavos envelopes were, on August 10th, converted into 2 and 6 centavos by an overprint in three lines of black sans-serif capitals and figures.

Envelopes. 2 c. on 5c., blue, black surcharge.
6 c. on 10 c., carmine, black surcharge.

MEXICO.—Not content with a multitude of new issues and "Oficial" surcharges, we now hear of a change in the colour of some

of the adhesives; the 10 c. is said to confound with the 20 c., and a fresh colour is in preparation; and, further, it seems that a new change in all the values is imminent; comment needless.

UNITED STATES.—We have the following:

Adhesives. 3 c., purple (with wmk.)
4 c., dark brown „
15 c., Prussian blue „
81, black „
82, deep blue „

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 1 c., deep claret (with wmk.)

OTHER COUNTRIES.

COREA (Korea).—A more or less speculative series has been issued; the value is expressed in *poons*, ten of which are said to be equivalent to a halfpenny; perf. 11½. We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. the four stamps noted, and the colours are—

Adhesives. 5 poon, yellow-green.
10 „ blue.
25 „ lake.
50 „ violet.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—We have two fresh post cards from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co., a halfpenny value consisting of a plain card containing the inscription “BRIEF” “KAART.” and four continuous lines for the address, with a halfpenny stamp surcharged with value and arms in black between the two words of the inscription, and a similar card, but with a twopenny stamp, surcharged “1½d” and arms.

Post Cards.

(½d. in black on halfpenny red-brown) black on white.
(1½d. „ on two pence, mauve) „

TRANSVAAL.—We annex illustration of the ½d. on 1s. surcharge. Messrs. Whitfield King send us the 4d. adhesive in the new type with pole.

Adhesive. 4 pence, sepia.



For the following interesting notes we are indebted to Capt. Norris Newman, F.R.G.S.:

“You will have received, long ere this reaches you, the newly surcharged issues of the Transvaal; but, as I have just received full sheets of each from the P.M.G., a few comments thereon may not be amiss.

“1. The sheets of Revenue 6d., surcharged in green with ‘POST ZEGEL,’ show three distinct shades of surcharge, viz., faint, yellowish, very dark; only one slight variety occurring in each sheet, viz., a broken ‘7’ for ‘T.’

“2. The 1d. on 2½d. is a fine distinct surcharge enough, had one type been stuck to throughout; but I find two distinct varieties of type, *i.e.* long thin, and shorter thick letters, with several shades of surcharge; and, unfortunately, on the same sheets, square and round dots for full stops after 1d.

“3. The ½d. on 1s. can also be adapted to variety collectors’ wants, inasmuch as there are two distinct printings, the one heavy and the other light; the latter having three varieties on each sheet, viz., the ‘H’ and ‘P’ of Half Penny exactly over each other, with a few stamps with the ‘H’ a long way to the right of the ‘P’; one stamp with a broken ‘H’ and ‘P’; and one stamp with ‘PENNY’ almost indistinct, and only one line under it instead of two for debarment.”

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: W. T. WILSON, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

R. HOLLICK, Esq.

W. PIMM, Esq.

Committee:

MR. V. LUNDEBLAD.

MR. C. A. STEPHENSON.

MR. W. S. VAUGHTON.

MR. W. F. WADAMS.

Hon. Sec. and Treas.: MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A.,
208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

ANNUAL GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING, Oct. 3. The election of the following members was confirmed: T. J. Rowland, Shanghai; Samuel Epstein, Johannesburg; H. E. Schmidt de Wilde, Paris; W. J. Martin, Falmouth; E. W. Hensinger, San Antonio.

The following were then unanimously elected members: William Brown, Salisbury; M. Z. Kuttner, London; Dr. H. le Cronier, Jersey; Dr. Anachoreta, Lisbon; E. H. Greateorex, Birmingham; W. E. Jeff, Coleshill; T. D. Hume, Newcastle-on-Tyne;

H. Loveridge, Wolverhampton; Miss E. Lewis, Ramsgate; A. Constantine, Birmingham; J. Winch, Colchester.

Votes of thanks were accorded Stanley Gibbons, Limited, Catalogue, 10th edition; H. L. Ewen, Catalogue, 4th edition; W. H. Peckitt, Catalogue; Manchester Philatelic Society, invitation to their opening meeting; Met. Philatelic Club of San Antonio, invitation to their exhibition.

The officers were elected for the ensuing year as at head of this report.

The accounts, showing a balance of £3 4s. 8½d. in favour of the Society, were audited, found correct, and passed.

Additions and alterations were made to the rules, which will in future be published in the Annual Report—ready for distribution about October 10th.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to the officers for their services during the past year.

The following programme was passed:—

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Oct. 17. | Presidential Address. | |
| Nov. 7. | Display—Western Australia. | |
| Nov. 21. | Paper—U. S. A., 1847-69. | Mr. C. A. Stephenson. |
| Dec. 5. | Display—Italy and Italian States. | |
| Dec. 19. | Paper—St. Vincent. | Mr. W. Pimm. |
| Jan. 2. | Display—West Africa. | |
| Jan. 16. | Paper—Great Britain. | Dr. G. H. Hart. |
| Feb. 6. | Debate—Reprints, for and against. | |
| Feb. 20. | Display of Novelties and New Issues. | |
| Mar. 5. | Display—Tasmania. | |
| Mar. 19. | Paper—Argentine. | Mr. G. Johnson. |
| Apr. 2. | Paper—Hamburg. | Mr. F. J. Lord. |
| Apr. 16. | Paper — | Mr. R. Hollick. |
| May 7. | Paper—Greece. | Mr. P. T. Deakin. |
| May 21. | Philatelic Display. | Mr. W. B. Avery. |

THE BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE first meeting of the session, 1895-6, was held on Tuesday evening, October 1st, 1895. Mr. Stamford occupied the chair, and there were ten other members present. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, and a new member elected, the Hon. Secretary announced that Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen had presented copies of their catalogues to the Society. Upon the proposition of Mr. Ebstein, seconded by Mr. Skipwith, a vote of thanks was passed

to the donors for their presents. A telegram having been received from the President of the Society, stating that he was unable to attend the meeting and give an opening address as promised, a discussion was opened by Mr. Atkinson, as to the pricing of the stamps in the Society's Exchange Club sheets, which was continued by several members, but no definite decision was come to. The next meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, the 12th November next.

W. H. SCOTT, *Hon. Sec.*

1, PICCADILLY, BRADFORD.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Officers for Session 1895-96.

President—W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S.

Vice-Presidents—W. B. SIMPSON; EUGENE EGLY.

Hon. Treasurer—FRANCIS J. KIDSON. | *Hon. Librarian*—J. W. DUFFIELD.

Hon. Secretaries—T. K. SKIPWITH; JOHN H. THACKRAH.

Ex-Presidents—OLIVER FIRTH; T. K. SKIPWITH.

THE opening meeting of the session 1895-96 was held at the Municipal Buildings, Leeds, on Monday evening, October 7th, the President in the chair.

In a few introductory remarks the President referred to the satisfactory position of the Society, and hoped that the energies of the Society would, as heretofore, be directed

to the detailed and critical study of Philatelic subjects, and that the members would support their Committee in their endeavours not to allow the Society to drift into a mere medium of exchange, to which end the Committee had prepared a full programme of papers for the session, comprising descriptions of the stamps of Antigua, Virgin Islands, Victoria,

Spain (Carlist and War Tax stamps), Greece, Norway, Alsace-Lorraine, &c.

Thanks were voted for numerous donations to the library, including the new catalogues issued by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen, and the following journals: Stanley Gibbons' *Monthly*, Hilckes' *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, *Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser*, *Philatelic Journal of America*, *El Heraldo Timbrologico*, *O Philatelista*, *L'Intermédiaire de la Timbrologie*, &c.

The Rev. T. S. Fleming and Messrs. E. Egly and T. K. Skipwith, showed a large number of stamps, including new issues of adhesives, letter cards, wrappers, &c., of New Zealand, Ceylon, Cape of Good Hope, Transvaal, Peru, and Queensland.

The Secretaries may be addressed as follows:

T. K. SKIPWITH,
13, VICTORIA ROAD, HYDE PARK, LEEDS.

JOHN H. THACKRAH,
54, ST. MICHAEL'S ROAD, HEADINGLY, LEEDS.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

THE first regular meeting of the Society after the summer vacation was held in its new and enlarged quarters, Sept. 16th, 1895.

The Executive Committee have had all the framed stamps and photographs of rare stamps properly hung up, together with the Philatelic pictures, etc., belonging to the Society. The new rooms are very satisfactory in every way, and offer ample opportunity for the work of the Society and the entertainment of members.

Owing to the unusual heat, very little serious work could be done by the members present, but plans were tentatively made for

papers to be read during the coming season. The present attention to the collection of plate numbers of United States stamps was discussed and illustrated by the exhibition of many varieties brought to the meeting by members who have taken up this branch.

It was proposed to hold an exhibition of plate numbers, but, owing to the limited number present, action was postponed. The newly-discovered variety of the 10 c., green, U.S., 1861, was exhibited by several members.

Mr. Albrecht presented the Society with a copy of his auction catalogues priced, and bound. Accepted with thanks.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.*

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.*

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—*THE LONDON PHILATELIST will be sent, post free in Great Britain or the countries of the Postal Union, to any subscriber, on receipt of 6s. (U.S. Supplement, 10/- extra.) Subscribers' remittances should be sent to The Publisher, EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET STRAND, LONDON, W.C.*

"ERRORS."

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

SIR,—In its most extended sense, an "error" is undoubtedly anything which is not done as intended, and the term would thus include broken letters, inverted water-marks, imperfect perforations, and the like, as well as blundered inscriptions, false colours, and wrong values.

I believe Philatelists are agreed in giving the name of "Variety" to those minor differences due to inverting a sheet, or to the wear, chipping, or cracking of dies, &c., as well as to accidental variation in colours

intended to be the same. But they are not consistent, as witness the time-honoured, so-called "error" "BELGIGUE."

The offending letter is not a "G"—one glance is enough to show the dangling tail of the unfortunate, broken "Q," and the wonderful *error*, priced at from forty-five to ninety times as high as the normal article, is due solely to a broken letter!

What a pity that heads do not increase in value at the same rate, under similar circumstances!

Yours truly,

ERNEST A. ELLIOTT.

INDIAN WATERMARKS.

DEAR SIR,—*Apropos* of the "Notable Variation of Watermark (India)," mentioned in the September number, I have found two very distinct varieties of the 9 pie value, which seem to have escaped the notice of catalogue compilers: one, carmine, on cream paper with brown gum; the other, carmine-pink, on white paper (thinner) with white gum.

But both of mine have the watermark in the normal position, which shows that the stamp described is nothing more than an inverted watermark, notwithstanding the emblematic signification of the star in that position.

Faithfully yours,
C. F. DENDY MARSHALL.

Sept. 30th, 1895.

A COMPLAINT.

SIR,—I should like to utter a mild protest against the ruling high prices of *English* Philatelic literature. Why this should be, I think, requires explanation.

If Senf Bros. and the Scott Co. can put their excellent catalogues upon the London market at 2s. per volume, how is it that Stanley Gibbons and Co. charge 75 % more, and no discount, for their last edition, which, upon a cursory examination, appears little else than an imitation of Scott's, with less substantial binding, and less perfect illustrations?

Again, Mr. Harry Hilckes publishes a useful catalogue of all British stamps; 4s. 6d., however, for only a sectional list is, to my mind, prohibitive. True, the binding is handsome, and the general get-up of the book good; but why such unnecessary luxuries for a work of reference? A cheap edition at one-fourth the price would command a readier sale.

Examples might be multiplied *ad infinitum*. I will, however, conclude with one further instance only, viz., Mr. Earée's book on forgeries, *Album Weeds*. This ought to be in every stamp collector's hands, but it is not, and for the simple reason that few care to pay the price (10s. 6d.). Were this useful work published at 2s. 6d., no one would be without so valuable an aid in the detection of "bogies!"

I remain, faithfully yours,
A MEMBER OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Sept. 21st, 1895.

THE TRANSVAAL WAGGON.

DEAR SIR,—I am only just in receipt of, amongst other papers, the October number (of 1894) of your paper, and note that Mr. Rance has written with reference to the "shafts" of the waggon on the shield of the Transvaal stamps and coinage.

As the numbers since January of this year are not yet to hand, I cannot say if this subject has been replied to, but, should it not have been, I shall be glad if you will give publication to the following remarks:

The waggon having shafts *is undoubtedly* an error, in fact there are two distinct issues of both the 1d., 6d., and 1s. stamps, one being with "shafts," and one with "disselboom." Of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 2d. I cannot speak with so much certainty, but I believe in the latter case it was only issued in the "disselboom" form, and in the former I do not think the "disselboom" has yet made its appearance.

With reference to the coins, whatever the *intention* of the Volkraad was I cannot say, but I have in my possession a sovereign and half-sovereign of both 1892 and 1893, and in both instances the one for 1892 bears the shafts (which is looked upon to a certain extent as likely to become rare), and the one for 1893 bears the "disselboom." In fact, the half-sovereign of 1892 has been sold at from 15s. to 20s.

You will therefore see that the *Monthly Journal* was not far wrong when it opined "that this will have to be altered in future printings." I am, Sir, yours truly,

D. MONTAGUE JACOBS.

SALISBURY, MASHONALAND, August 20th, 1895.

THE 80 C., PARMA.

DEAR SIR,—We have read in the Philatelic Notes in your issue of last month a paragraph referring to the 80 c. of Parma used. We were anxious to supply Dr. Diena with the information he required, but unfortunately the books of that particular sale in which the stamp was included have become mislaid, during alterations which have been carried out at our offices. We intend making further search, and if we can supply you with the information we shall be only too pleased to do so.

The stamp was included in a mixed lot, which realized £1 16s. We now enclose you a priced catalogue of that sale, the lot referred to being 452.—Yours faithfully,

VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

35, OLD JEWRY, LONDON, E.C., 16th Oct., 1895.

The Market.

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER.

Some 719 lots composed a successful three days' sale held by Messrs. Ventom, Bull, and Cooper, on September 24-26; the highest price obtained was £39 for a copy of Tuscany 3 lire, yellow, with small margins; others were:

	£	s.	d.
Hamburg, 9 sch., yellow	3	10	0
Oldenburg, 2nd issue, $\frac{1}{3}$ gros., black on green, unused	6	6	0
Saxony, 3 pf., red, unused	6	10	0
France, 1 franc, orange	6	0	0
Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ t., blue "Arms"	19	0	0
Ditto, $\frac{1}{2}$ t., blue "Cross"	4	15	0
Spain, 1852, 2 reales, red, unused	29	0	0
Ditto, 1853, ditto, ditto	12	0	0
Zurich, 4 rap., black, horizontal lines, Type III.	21	0	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown	17	0	0
Ditto, 9d., violet-brown	7	10	0
Ditto, 1s. 9d., green, perf., unused	3	3	0
Cape, woodblock, 1d., red	5	5	0
Mauritius, Britannia, 4d., black and green	3	18	0
British Columbia, \$1, green	3	3	0
Canada, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green	4	8	0
New Brunswick, 1s., mauve, small margins	13	0	0
Newfoundland, 1s., carmine-ver- milion, small margins	15	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet	16	0	0
Bahamas, 1d., lake, imperf.	7	10	0
British Guiana, 1851, 4 c., blue	14	0	0
Dominica, 1s., lake, used	9	0	0
Montserrat, 4d., blue, CA	4	4	0
St. Vincent, 4d. on 1s.	10	10	0
Nevis, litho, 6d., olive	14	0	0
Ditto, 6d., green	11	0	0
Trinidad, litho, 1d., blue	5	10	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., carmine and black, single lined border	5	5	0
New South Wales, 5d., green, imperf., unused	6	6	0
Ditto, 5s., violet, surch. "O.S." in red	4	0	0
Ditto, 20s., blue on yellowish, surch. "O.S." in black, used on original with a 10s., red and violet, similarly surcharged	9	0	0
Victoria, 6d., orange, beaded oval	6	10	0
Ditto, 5s., blue on yellow	5	5	0
West Australia, 2d., brown on red, rouletted	11	0	0

The sale on Wednesday and Thursday, October 9th and 10th, consisted of a private collection, and some 538 lots classed it a "fine" one. Prices were unusually good, and buyers were liberal, especially toward a few "defective" specimens.

Spain, 1851, 2 reales, red, unused	28	0	0
Ditto, 1852, ditto, ditto, ditto	22	0	0
Ditto, 1853, ditto, ditto, ditto	8	0	0

Ditto, Madrid, 3 cuartos, bronze	11	10	0
Tuscany, 3 lire, yellow (poor)	26	10	0
Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ t., "Arms"	16	5	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ rappen	4	15	0
Zurich, 4 rap., Type III., horizontal lines	7	0	0
Geneva, double stamp joined	9	0	0
Lagos, 1885, 2s. 6d., brown, unused	4	12	6
Ditto, ditto, 5s., blue, ditto	6	7	6
Newfoundland, 1s., orange-vermilion	28	0	0
Ditto, 4d., carmine-vermilion	6	0	0
Ditto, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., ditto	13	0	0
Ditto, 1s., ditto	21	0	0
United States, 1869, 90 c., black and carmine, unused	3	17	6
Ditto, Justice, set complete	11	15	0
British Guiana, 1850, 12 c., blue, cut round	3	15	0
Ditto, 1851, 1 c., black on magenta	5	5	0
Ditto, 1856, 4 c., ditto	4	15	0
St. Vincent, 1861-69, 1s., brown, unused	6	6	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., indigo, unused	5	5	0
Ditto, wmk. Star, 1s., rose-red, ditto	4	4	0
Ditto, Provis., 1d., in red, on half a 6d., blue-green	10	10	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s.	11	5	0
Ditto, Star wmk., 5s., rose-red, unused	17	0	0
Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, unused	16	10	0
Ditto, litho., 4d., yellow, unused	10	0	0
Ditto, litho, 6d., olive-grey	12	10	0
Ditto, Cr. CA, 6d., green, unused	10	0	0
St. Lucia, 1s., blk. and orange, Cr. CA	4	12	0
Ditto, 1s., red-brown, unused	7	0	0
Colombia, 20 c., red	5	5	0
Bolivar, 1st issue, 10 c., green	5	0	0

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

Some very fine specimens characterised the sale held on October 1st and 2nd, and a block of four post-paid Mauritius 2d., blue, probably unique, was well worth the £210 paid. Following are some other prices realized; and, considering the superb copies, they were not too high.

Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ t., "Cross," unused	5	10	0
Oldenburg, 1st issue, $\frac{1}{16}$ th., un- used	4	14	0
Ditto, 2nd issue, $\frac{1}{3}$ gros., black on green, unused	7	7	0
Ditto, 3rd issue, $\frac{1}{3}$ gros., green, unused; error "DRITTE"	6	6	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ rappen, unused	6	5	0
Ditto, Vaud, 4 cents	23	0	0
Tuscany, 2nd issue, 1 soldo, un- used	6	5	0
Wurtemberg, 1st issue, 6 kr., green, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 9 kr., pink, unused	20	0	0
Ceylon, 1st issue, 6d., unused	7	15	0
Ditto, ditto, 10d., unused	5	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., unused	21	10	0

	£	s.	d.
Mauritius, 1d., post paid, pair	24	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, a severed pair on piece of original	28	10	0
Ditto, 1d., post paid	10	10	0
Ditto, 2d., ditto, block of four (early impression, in superb condition, and thus unsevered, almost unique)	210	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, single copy	13	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto	16	10	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, early plate	29	0	0
Canada, 6d., purple, imperf., un- used	13	10	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, perf., unused	13	0	0
Ditto, 7½d., green, imperf., unused	11	0	0
Ditto, 10d., blue, imperf., unused	11	0	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow, un- used	9	0	0
Ditto, 1s., mauve, unused	26	0	0
Newfoundland, 4d., carmine- vermillion	7	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet, unused, <i>torn</i>	19	10	0
United States, 1855, 90 cts., blue, unused	4	4	0
Nevis, 4d., rose on bluish, unused	9	0	0
Ditto, 6d., grey on bluish	6	10	0
Ditto, engraved, 4d., orange, un- used	3	7	6
Bolivar, 1st issue, 10 cts., green	6	6	0
British Guiana, 1860, 1 ct., brown, unused	5	5	0
Ditto, Provis., 1 ct., pink, unused, rouletted	18	18	0
Ditto, ditto, 2 cts., yellow, roul.	9	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 3 cts., blue, rouletted	13	0	0
New Zealand, 2d., blue, imperf., pelure paper, unused	7	10	0
Ditto, Wmk. N. Z., 6d., red- brown, unused	5	5	0
South Australia, 1d., green, im- perf., unused	7	0	0
Ditto, 6d., dark blue, imperf.	4	0	0
Tasmania, 1d., blue, vertical strip of 4	6	0	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY & CO.

At the seventy-fourth sale, held on September 19th and 20th, the following were sold amongst others.

Levant, 1864, 6 kopecs, blue	4	15	0
Ceylon, 4d., imperf. (damaged)	7	15	0
Ditto, 8d., ditto (damaged)	4	0	0
Ditto, wmk. Star, 8d., brown	4	10	0
Labuan, 6 c., in red, on 16 c., blue, unused	4	10	0
Newfoundland, 1s., orange, small margins	10	0	0
New Brunswick, 1s., violet	17	5	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., plum	22	0	0
St. Vincent, 1s., violet-rose, unused	6	10	0
Ditto, wmk. Star, 4d., dark blue, unused	7	10	0
Virgin Islands, 6d., rose, perf. 15	6	0	0
Ditto, 1s., narrow outer line, unused	5	0	0
Mauritius, Greek border, 1d., red, unused	8	0	0
St. Kitts, 1s., lilac, strip of five	7	15	0

Antigua, 1s., mauve, block of four, unused	5	0	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., thin border, unused	4	5	0
Newfoundland, 6½d., carmine, unused	7	10	0
Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, No. 9 on Plate, unused	16	0	0
Nevis, 1s., yellow-green, No. 12 on Plate, unused	11	10	0
Nevis, 4d., yellow, litho., unused	8	10	0
Ditto, 6d., olive, ditto, ditto	11	10	0
Dominica, CA, 1s., lake, unused	5	5	0
St. Christopher, CA, 6d., sepia, unused pair	5	0	0
Turks' Islands, 1883, ½d. on 4d., grey, unused pair	3	10	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

Sale on September 18.

Virgin Islands, first issue, 1s., unused	2	10	0
New Brunswick, 1s., mauve	17	0	0
Canada, 7½d., green, unused	6	6	0
United States, 1869, set complete	4	4	0

Sale on September 27.

Wurtemberg, 70 kr., unused	3	0	0
Tobago, CA, 6d., light brown, unused	13	10	0
N.S.W., Sydney, 2d., slate-blue, Plate I. (fine)	4	17	6
N.S.W., Sydney, 8d., orange, imperf.	3	6	0

A NEW FINANCIAL RECORD.

THE two dies of the St. Louis 20 cents, on what is termed the second or bluish paper, have been recently sold to a prominent American collector for five thousand dollars, or about £1040! *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, to whom we are indebted for the information, considers this pair, on the first paper, a superior rarity to the Post-office, or any other stamps, as only two copies are known, as against some sixteen on the bluish paper. The variety of paper can hardly be deemed as sufficiently differentiating them from their congeners, from the financial aspect, but they are of very great and deserved value.

Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News, of October 3rd, says further hereon:

"It may be of further interest to our readers to know that a collector in New Jersey paid ten thousand dollars for six St. Louis stamps, forming Plate II., showing the two 5 cents stamps, Dies C and B, altered to 20 cents (illustrated in No. 246 of this paper).

"A Boston collector, who is the fortunate owner of Plates I. and II. of the rare St. Louis stamps, upon an inquiry from London, placed his selling price at £3000 sterling for the two Plates.

"It is safe to say that the discovery of St. Louis stamps at Louisville, Ky., two months ago, has created greater excitement in leading stamp circles than any incident on record in Philatelic history. It was practically a mine of jewels, the rarity and like of which has not been, and probably never will be known."

THE
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. IV.

NOVEMBER, 1895.

No. 47.

The Fashion.



AN interesting paper by the President of the Birmingham Philatelic Society, recently read before that body, dealing with the fashions in stamps, will be found in another column, and we would commend its careful perusal by all and sundry. Mr. William T. Wilson is one of the oldest votaries of Philately, and his experience in the stamp world is so extended and consummate, that his remarks should command the thoughtful attention of us all. There can be no doubt but that he has made out a strong case against the almost volcanic upheaval of prices in regard to some of the "fashionable" stamps of the West Indies. It is true that in many cases but comparatively small numbers of particular stamps were issued, but in almost all instances these stamps have been imported into this country, and a considerable proportion thereof secured for collectable purposes. In the case of the recent remainder, most of the stamps were available in quantities of 1,000 and over, and when it is calculated that even this *minimum* number remains in *Philatelic circulation*, it is evident that the recent abnormal prices fall far short of justification. If a Philatelic census of the stamps of which the copies known to exist, in quantities of not more than 1,000, were made, there would probably be some astonishing upheavals of prices if based upon the prevailing rage. In commenting upon Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' Catalogue, the *American Journal of Philately* gives pertinently hereon a further note of caution, which we venture to reproduce:

"A more serious objection is the general tendency to mark high prices for used specimens of obsolete stamps, even when they are still good for postage. As an instance, we may mention (*inter alia*) many of the latest issues of the obsolete Leeward Islands.

"As to these, our remarks are intended to serve as a general warning to collectors as a whole. All of these stamps are still available for postal purposes, and in most cases the old numbered cancelling stamps are still in use.

"Hence, a collector cannot tell, unless the stamp is on the letter and shows a date in the cancelling stamp of the receiving office, whether any particular specimen was used before 1890, when the general series for the Leeward Islands was introduced, or in 1895. Antigua is the only one of the five groups which uses date stamps exclusively and, even if the other islands should finally adopt the system, a high quotation for a used stamp would still lead to fraud. Under these conditions, while the thorough expert could distinguish a genuinely used specimen of the proper period from one cancelled to order at a later date, the general collector could not make such distinction. When stamps are uncanceled, a high catalogue quotation for cancelled specimens would be in order, if comparative rarity warranted it, as it would then become merely a question as to whether the obliterating mark is genuine or counterfeit. As a case in point we might mention such stamps as Bremen, Bergedorf, Lubeck, Mecklenburg, etc., etc."

Another class that is, with more reason, deservedly popular and ever in season is that of the stamps of British North America, as keenly collected (and hoarded!) on one side of the Atlantic as the other. Even here, however, the prices paid give food for reflection, and the thoughtful collector wonders that the One Shilling values of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick can continuously command, in never-ceasing appearances at auctions, the great prices recently paid. To mention almost the first stamps that occur to us, the 50 grana Naples, the 2d. fine background and sides of Victoria, the One Shilling prune Turks Islands, the 60 crazie Tuscany, the 96c. yellow-brown Hong Kong (unused), or the green Buenos Ayres ship, all face varieties, are all, in our opinion, known in fewer *fine* copies than these British North American "Shillings." We are aware that, like all homilies, our remarks will be read and forgotten by the majority, but none the less we feel constrained to "liberate our mind," and to give a kindly hint to all *Spekulants* that, as all is not gold that glitters, so speculative prices of the day may not mean permanently secure Stock, and that in times of depression there may be the difficult process of "unloading"—which in the case of legitimate and normal demands for *collecting* purposes does not occur.

The Locally-printed Stamps of Tasmania, 1888-1891.

BY THE REV. P. E. RAYNOR, M.A.



Very few collectors understand the minor varieties of the native or locally-printed issues of Tasmania, which have appeared during the last seven years, it may be worth while to try and make them plain to the ordinary understanding.

Mr. Basset Hull's exhaustive work on the stamps of Tasmania was published by the London Society in 1890; it therefore includes only those stamps issued up to the end of 1889. But he published supplementary articles in *Vindin's Monthly*, bringing the issues

up to date, in December, 1891, and October, 1892. These will therefore be the sources of the present article.*

It may be premised that two perforating machines were in use during the latter part of this period. The old one (in use since 1870) gauging $11\frac{1}{2}$, and the new one measuring 12, imported in 1884; but out of order and out of use soon after that, until it was repaired and brought into use again in 1891.

It will be as well also to emphasise the two types of watermark, to which I first called attention in an article published in the *Federal Philatelist*, in January, 1890, and which are now distinguished in all leading catalogues as Type I. (1870), Type II. (1878).

The watermark, as shown generally in illustrations, is as it appears when viewed from the face of the stamp, and may be called the normal position. When printed sideways, it will read from the left lower corner to the right upper corner (instead of from the left upper to the right lower), or from the right upper to the left lower. Other positions of the watermark sideways and inverted are, of course, possible; but may be disregarded for the purposes of the present paper.

Instead of observing the strict chronological order of issue, it will be more convenient to take each value separately—

THE HALFPENNY.

This stamp was printed from a roughly-executed die, ordered in haste from Melbourne at the end of 1888. The engraving is naturally much inferior to that of Messrs. De La Rue's design, from which it was copied. There were three distinct printings of this stamp—

March, 1889. Wmk. TAS. Type II. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$; $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; pale to deep orange.
(Variety, with inverted watermark.)

May, 1891. Wmk. TAS. Type I. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12; $\frac{1}{2}$ d. brown-orange.

June, 1891. Wmk. TAS. Type I. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12; $\frac{1}{2}$ d. orange.

(The first of these is No. 104, and the third No. 108 in Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' 1895 catalogue. The second, which is a very distinct shade, is omitted.)

THE ONE PENNY.

The old plate of the One Penny value, sent out to the Colony in 1870, and used in printing this value locally from 1870 to 1878 (when the stamps were first printed in England), was once more brought into requisition in 1889. This was owing to the exhaustion of the penny value by the "Halfpenny" surcharge, and the non-arrival of a fresh supply from England.

The plate was in a very battered condition from long wear, the two chief plate-faults being in the second pane, top row, fifth stamp (the letters AS in TASMANIA completely blotched out); and in the second pane, last row, sixth stamp (where a dent crosses the stamp vertically for half its length, and produces a white gap).

This plate was again resorted to during the year 1891, owing to another temporary dearth of English-printed supplies. The first batch of these was printed at the *Mercury* newspaper office (owing to the Government printing-office being too busy for the work), and closely resembled the 1889 print in

* *The Stamps of Tasmania*; Philatelic Society, London, 1890. *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, vol. v., No. 5, p. 75, and vol. vi., No. 3, p. 40.

shade (a deep vermilion); and as it bears the same perforation, $11\frac{1}{2}$, it can only be distinguished from it by the position of the watermark, which is sideways (*a*). Of this edition, 60,000 copies were printed. The Government then carried on the printing, and, as both types of TAS paper were used, two more varieties were produced; or, counting the two distinct perforations, $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12—four. The colour was a deep rose, fairly reproducing Messrs. De la Rue's colour; but, not being hot pressed, the stamps have not the gloss of the English prints, nor is the shade quite identical.

SYNOPSIS OF ONE PENNY.

1. Feb. 1889. Wmk. TAS. Type II. (normal). Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$. 1d., pale to deep vermilion.
 2. April, 1891. Wmk. TAS. Type II. (sideways). Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12. 1d., pale to deep vermilion.
 3. May, 1891. Wmk. TAS. Type I. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12. 1d., bright rose.
 4. May, 1891. Wmk. TAS. Type II. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12. 1d., bright rose.
- (Nos. 1, 3, 4 are Government prints. No. 2, *Mercury*).

(No. 1 corresponds to 105 in Stanley Gibbons. No. 3, to 110. No. 109 in Stanley Gibbons is either a mistake or a shade of 110).

THE TWOPENCE HALFPENNY.

The reduction of postage to England to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. was decided upon in July, 1890, but no steps were taken to order a permanent die. Mr. Hull relates that he suggested to the authorities the use of the 10d. die in a different colour, as a basis for the surcharge. They, however, decided to use the 9d. instead, but to print it in a lighter shade of blue. This intention was frustrated by the effect of gas-light in printing, which brought out the colour identical with the current 9d.

This batch, however, in dark blue, was at first withheld, though it was issued a few months later, when the stock ran low. The first issued shade was a chalky blue. The surcharge was dull, first set up in type and then lithographed. There are two types of this surcharge (1) measuring 14 mm. (2) measuring 15 mm. in height. The second was due to a re-setting, in which the space between the $2\frac{1}{2}$ and the d. was widened.

SYNOPSIS OF TWOPENCE HALFPENNY.

1. Jan. 1891. Wmk. TAS. Type II. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. (14 mm.) on 9d., dull chalky blue.
 2. May, 1891. Wmk. TAS. Type II. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. (14 mm.) on 9d., dark blue.
 3. May, 1891. Wmk. TAS. Type II. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. (15 mm.) on 9d., pale blue.
- (No. 3 corresponds to Stanley Gibbons' No. 106. No. 2, to 107. No 1 is omitted. This latter is far the scarcest of the three).

THE FOURPENCE.

This value has from the first been printed in the Colony. Previous to 1883 it had been printed on paper watermarked with Type I. of TAS, the colour varying from ochre to pale yellow. In January, 1883, it appeared with the watermark of Type II.; and in August, 1888, a freak was produced in the shape of a stamp printed upon both sides. The first impression was

of a colour even more unsatisfactory than usual; and in order not to waste the paper, a second impression was made on the reverse; but even then the result was not encouraging. I believe that only one sheet was so treated. In September, 1891, the feeble and ineffective yellow was at last replaced by a more visible colour—a kind of mouse-brown. The old paper (TAS, Type I.) was used, and this stamp is, I believe, still current.

SYNOPSIS.

1. Aug., 1888. Wmk. TAS. Type II. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 12; 4d., yellow.
Variety: printed on both sides.
2. Sept., 1891. Wmk. TAS. Type I. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$; 4d., mouse-brown.
(No. 2 is 91 in Stanley Gibbons, but is placed out of order.)

THE SIXPENCE.

In August, 1891, the 6d. of the Platypus type being exhausted, a reprint was made of the old 6d. (bust of Queen). The plate, being too large for the Government Printing Presses, was sawn in two, and one of the halves (containing 170 stamps) was used for printing a supply on the old paper, wmk. double-lined 6. The colour was a pale reddish-lilac, almost identical with the last previously-issued shade in August, 1867. The perforation being the same ($11\frac{1}{2}$), it is very difficult to distinguish the two stamps: but the shade is slightly lighter in the re-issue, and the plate has a worn and "whitey" appearance.

Sept., 1891. Wmk. 6. Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$; 6d., pale red-lilac.

(This stamp is omitted in Stanley Gibbons' 1895 Catalogue; which also, strangely, omits the bi-coloured 6d. of 1892.)

Fashionable Stamps.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY, OCTOBER 17TH, 1895.

BY W. T. WILSON, PRESIDENT.



N the threshold of a new season in the Philatelic world, it is well to pause and consider the question of fashionable stamps.

What they are?

What is the result of this fashion?

How best to meet the difficulties they cause to collectors?

Fashionable stamps are at present West Indian, and the British Colonies of North America, particularly those countries which have ceased to issue stamps. All these are, with few exceptions, of inferior interest to many of our Australian Colonies, notably New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, which come first because of the charm and interest appertaining to the primitive home productions of the local engraver and lithographer, whose crude work, and numerous errors, are of the most interesting character to all true Philatelists. Varieties of colour, of paper, of design, at first seem

bewildering, but the better catalogues are now of such easy access to every collector, that a little study soon makes all clear. Our Society provides for its members' use most of the best standard works of reference, and although such splendid work has been done by the pioneers of stamp collecting—in the first rank of whom stood a Birmingham collector, the late Edward L. Pemberton, of whom we may all feel proud—there are still opportunities of research and discovery open to every Philatelist who studies carefully each point connected with his hobby.

Dealing with the fashionable stamps in the order I have enumerated, we come to West Indian, of which the most interesting (and I may say, in parenthesis, the most costly), is British Guiana, whose roughly type-set provisionals of local manufacture in 1850, are certainly among the rarest stamps in the world, and likely to remain so, because they were only used internally, as at the time, and both previously and subsequently for foreign postage, the British Guiana Post-office used the English adhesive stamps then current. Another minute factor in the enhancement of the value of these and many other stamps was the omnivorous white ant with which that Colony is infested—every scrap of paper was devoured by this little insect, unless the paper was protected by being kept in tin boxes. This fact soon became apparent to the local stamp hunter, so that you can easily imagine how carefully every box has been ransacked in the Colony.

The provisionals of 1856 give us the rarest stamp in the world—one specimen only being known—while the 1862 provisionals are highly interesting, and enjoy the distinction of stamps which have increased in value from a few pence to more pounds each. Passing the provisionally-surcharged stamps of 1876 and after, we find history repeating itself by the Colony issuing in 1882 two more provisionally home-printed type-set stamps, which are fairly interesting. All these have been carefully studied, and the results are to be found in the West Indian Catalogue of the London Philatelic Society and its magazine.

Nevis ranks next in interest; the plates from which these small sheets of stamps were printed contained twelve different types for each value, being printed direct from the plates in the first instance, and subsequently reproduced by lithographic transfer. This has made these stamps the second in interest of West Indian stamps.

Trinidad falls into third position, principally because of its local so-called wood block, which was an engraving on stone, an entirely original, and, so far as I know, unique process of manufacture. This stone was at the Chicago Exhibition, where I saw it, and, from its appearance, it certainly had been but very little used. It was examined by a lithographic expert, who stated it was not a lithographic stone; it is therefore probable that a few impressions were taken from it to make the proper stone from which the stamps were printed, the earliest prints being the fine clear impressions at first considered to be wood blocks, the middle and later prints, those worn and rough impressions, which at the last were almost indecipherable.

It is recently reported that this interesting stone was broken in transit from Chicago.

Another circumstance, also unique in character, lends additional interest

to Trinidad stamps—the earliest issues in five colours have been proved to have been all used at various times for one value; this very curious fact is unparalleled in the history of the use of stamps.

In this Island also was issued in 1847 the first postage stamp of the West Indies. The owners of the steamship “Lady McLeod” issued a stamp to pay postage on letters carried between two ports in the island—a local private stamp it is true, but a highly interesting and rare one.

The acme of fashion are most certainly the obsolete issues of the West Indian stamps now grouped under the head of Leeward Islands. I have spoken of the early issues of Nevis, succeeding which in beauty are Virgin Islands, followed by the good old plain design of Antigua, a “Perkins-Bacon” production of early days, which puts to shame the miserable stamps designed by De La Rue. Five years have elapsed since the old Leewards were put out of use, yet daily the interest increases in their collection, and their value goes up accordingly.

Amongst the other West Indian stamps are to be found, in the earlier issues, many handsome stamps of what I might venture to call classic beauty. St. Vincent and St. Lucia will certainly present themselves to your mind’s eye, but of the later issues of most West Indians the less said the better.

The North American Colonies are distinctly more varied and interesting. Beautiful stamps are most of the obsolete issues—the novel shape of the first issues of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia—the elegance of their design, engraving, colouring, and the splitting of the stamps, all tend to make them particularly popular. Canada with its beaver, Newfoundland with several distinctive characteristics, some of which, if not very practical, were certainly unique of their kind (I allude to the fact that no less than six of their stamps were of almost identical design and of a single colour), and the symbolical designs of its recent issues.

British Columbia and Vancouver Islands are less striking, although here we get a very early example of over-printing; and finally the ugly duckling of this happy family, which I need hardly mention, is Prince Edward Island.

Coming next to my heading

What is the result of this fashion?

An undue appreciation of the values of many of these stamps, more particularly of the commonplace designs of the later issues of West Indian. Fashion has made of almost everybody a collector of West Indian or British North American stamps. The demand is, therefore, far in excess of the supply, and prices of these stamps have become in my mind, unduly inflated. Such prices must have a reaction sooner or later, and many collectors with short purses cannot but see that it is hopeless to complete sets of these stamps, even where the list may look a small one.

To make matters more difficult, many so-called collectors are not Philatelists, and never take any real and intelligent interest in the subject. They are *Speculators*, who buy up all the specimens they can of any stamps that interest them, principally because they believe prices must go up, and then they hope to reap a rich return. They must not, however, forget that

there is a limit even to increase of prices; and that a number of genuine Philatelists, who are daily being added to our body, when they discover that there are practically no stamps of this fashionable order to be procured, will turn their attention to other countries, with results likely to prove to the benefit of Philately, and not altogether to the enrichment of the speculator.

Let us glance at some figures and facts in connection with these old Leeward stamps. I will only endeavour to deal with what I consider unduly inflated auction prices.

Dominica, 1s., CA wmk. 1428 remainders of these were sold by the Crown agents, 1891. S. G. price, 70s.

Now, as this stamp was issued some time in 1887-1888, it certainly had two years of existence, although not a large circulation, as the rates were $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. the $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

The last auction prices were—Unused, £5 5s.; used, £9.

Putting aside the question of how many of these stamps were used and preserved, and those imported by dealers during issue, we find that the remainders, numbering 1428, are worth, at £5 5s. each, the respectable sum of £7,497.

St. Christopher. Remainders 2,505. 6d., CA, olive grey, issued May (?), 1890. S. G. price, 70s. Unused, £5. Total at £5 each, £12,525.

These are two extreme examples, it is true, of how things are going; they show, however, that my statement that speculators are the principal cause of the inflated and, to my mind, ridiculous price—is true.

Without considering the issued stamps, both unused and used, and allowing for dealers' stocks, which I can say from a fair knowledge are very small, it appears that say 2000 of these stamps have been absorbed by collectors and speculators since 1891.

The 1s. Nevis, CA, mauve, is a stamp which at present appears to have escaped the greed of the speculator; there were only 1457 remainders; last auction price was 54s., and Gibbons' price is quoted 60s.

Some of the figures to be worked out from Nevis stamps are startling—that rare stamp, the 6d. olive-grey, litho., recently brought £14 at auction.

One hundred sheets of twelve issued 1878 give 1200 stamps at £14 each, amounts to £16800, a small fortune to many a Philatelist.

How best to meet the difficulties they cause to collectors?

First, I would say, leave the collection of these fashionables severely alone; take up countries less run after. For example, some of the South American States which have not been Seebeckized—as Argentine, Bolivia, Brazil, Chili, &c., the much-despised Indian native states, are really very interesting—they require a great amount of discrimination, it is true—it is one of the difficulties which an earnest Philatelist can accomplish—and they are to be bought at prices below their true value; my friend, Major Evans, collects several of these states, and has given them some study, so that you see even the most neglected countries do interest a fine Philatelist.

In Mexico, too, much has still to be learnt, and any collector with a knowledge of the Spanish language could help us greatly by reading up the history, books, and papers of the period covering the use of the early issues.

There are many others, notably in Europe, well within the range of a modest purse—take one or more of these up, specialize in them, study minutely and carefully every stamp, not alone, but side by side with duplicates of the same; study the papers, watermarks, perforations, and colours; the methods of their production; consider the reasons for their use and disuse—if obsolete; enquire into the causes for these changes; find out, or estimate where possible, the quantities issued, or used, or likely to have been; in fact, study the stamps you are specializing in from every point of view, and you will find a charm and interest in them far greater than in simply filling up the spaces of a ready-made album. Believe me, profit will come with it; you will soon become master of the situation, and, as you have learnt by this experience which are the prizes, so will be your reward in picking up the gems, of which the collector of fashionable stamps is entirely ignorant, and the fruit of your studies should go to enrich the general philatelic knowledge, in the form of a paper on the subject, that will redound to your own credit and to the credit of the Birmingham Philatelic Society.

Notes on Switzerland and the Cantonal Stamps.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

BY OTTO PFENNINGER.

A.—HISTORIC: GENERAL.



It is not my intention to write an elaborate history, but I wish first to draw your attention to the fact, that the different religious and political coalitions had to give way, in the year 1847, on the battlefield of the Sonderbund, to a Liberal and more central constitution.

The independent Unions of the different Cantons were cemented more firmly together, and, to a certain extent, they were deprived of their right of self-government, and taken under Central and Federal jurisdiction; the Post, Mint, and Excise became entirely Federal—that is, a Federal monopoly; the Military became almost Federal; some of the Cantonal rights were still held in a nominal fashion, which has gradually died away, so that at the present day Federal rule alone is the acknowledged factor. The Judicature is still disunited, and the 25 different Cantons and Half-Cantons are still enjoying 25 different jurisdictions. In this case, however, steps are being gradually taken, with a view to centralization, and some portion of the civil-administration is already under Federal government, while it is believed, in well informed circles, that by the year 2000 (!) this Augean stable will have been swept clean by the Federal broom.

The Post was formerly in a similar confusion as is the jurisdiction at the present time, there existing formerly no less than eighteen different postal administrations.

As to the Currency, that was a mine of surprises of the general narrow-mindedness of Cantonal sovereignty. Some of the Cantons had even two different systems—Florin system, as well as Francs.

The Post being closely related to the Currency, I do not think it out of place to dive a little deeper into the subject.

The Albertus, or Crown, or Brabant Dollar, was the best known coin in the Germanic States during the last 200 years; its present worth is $5\frac{72}{1000}$ francs, in the Latin Money-Union, or $4\frac{616}{1000}$ shillings, English. The French Currency was, the Louis d'or, up to the year 1795; its present value is 22 fcs., 80 cts., or $18\frac{24}{100}$ shillings English. This last mentioned value was known in Switzerland under the name of "Dublone"; $\frac{1}{2}$ dublone was called a Ducaten; and $\frac{1}{2}$ ducaten, a "Six-livres-Dollar." The last named is the same value as the Brabant dollar, and was adopted in 1825 as uniform currency, in the Cantons of Aarau, Berne, Basel, Freiburg, Solothurn, Vaud, and Vallois, under the name of Ecu-Neuf (New Dollar), or "Four-franc Dollar," and was divided into four old francs—present value, 1 fc. 43 cts., or 1 shilling 1 penny 3 farthings; 1 franc had 10 batzen, one batz = 10 rappen.

This New Dollar was afterwards tolerated in all the Cantons, more or less. On the 10th May, 1850, all the Cantonal coins in general use were given the official value of the old Franc system; on June 1st, 1850, this old Franc system was declared to be the legal basis for the transition-state to the new coinage; which latter was decreed by the legislative powers on May 7th, 1850, as future currency.

The introduction of the new currency gave fresh work to do, and a certain time elapsed before it could be circulated. The withdrawal and abolition of the old system was effected by Cantonal sections, the date of withdrawal being fixed as follows: Vaud, Geneva, October 1st, 1851; Vallois, November 15th, 1851; Freiburg, November 1st, 1851; Neuchâtel, November 15th, 1851; Berne and Solothurn, January 1st, 1852; Basel and Aargau, February 1st, 1852; Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden, March 1st, 1852; Glarus and Zug, April 16th, 1852; Zurich and Schaffhausen, May 15th, 1852; Appenzell, St. Gallen, and Thurgau, July 17th, 1852; Graubunden and Tessin, August 1st, 1852; so that on the 1st of August, 1852, the present system was the only legal one.

In the Helvetian period, that is, before 1848, each Canton had its own peculiar moneys, beside the facultative old Franc system, of which I will give an abridged enumeration.

ZURICH.—1 new-dollar = $2\frac{1}{2}$ florin. 1 fl. = 60 kreuzer or 40 schilling or 16 batzen.
1 schilling = 12 heller or 4 rpp. (1 fl. = fcs. 2.29 or $1/9\frac{1}{2}$ d.)

GLARUS.—1 new-dollar = $2\frac{5}{8}$ fl. 1 fl. = 40 sch. (fcs. 2.18 or $1/8\frac{1}{2}$ d.)

BASEL.—1 new-dollar = $2\frac{2}{3}$ fl. or $3\frac{1}{3}$ pound. 1 fl. = 50 sch. or 60 kr. or 15 btz.
1 pd. = 40 sch. or 48 kr. or 12 btz. 2 sch. = 1 plappard or assis =
18 heller. (1 fl. = fcs. 2.14 or $1/8$ d. 1 pd. = fcs. 1.71 or $1/4$ d.)

BERNE, AARGAU, SOLOTHURN.—1 new-dollar = $2\frac{2}{3}$ fl. $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar of Berne = 1 fl. =
2 pound = 15 batzen. (1 fl. = fcs. 2.14 or $1/8$ d.)

ST. GALLEN, APPENZELL, THURGAU, SCHAFFHAUSEN.—1 new-dollar = $2\frac{2}{3}$ fl.
1 fl. = 60 kr. 1 kr. = 4 penny. 1 penny = 2 heller. (1 fl. = fcs. 2.10
or $1/7\frac{3}{4}$ d.)

LUCERNE AND UNTERWALDEN.—1 new-dollar = 3 fl. 1 fl. = 40 sch. or 60 kr.
(1 fl. = fcs. 1.90 or 1/6d.)

ZUG.—1 new-dollar = $3\frac{1}{3}$ fl. 1 fl. = 40 sch. (1 fl. = fcs. 1.83 or 1/5d.)

URI AND SCHWYZ.—1 new-dollar = $3\frac{1}{2}$ fl. 1 fl. = 15 light batzen, or 40 sch.,
or 60 kr. 1 kr. = 4 angster. (1 fl. = fcs. 1.75 or 1/4½d.)

GRAUBUNDEN.—1 new-dollar = $3\frac{2}{3}$ fl. 1 fl. = 60 kr. or 70 blutzger. (1 fl. = fcs. 1.69
or 1/4d.)

VAUD.—1 new-dollar = 4 livres. 1 livre same as old Franc system. (1 livre =
fcs. 1.43 or 1/1¼d.)

VALLOIS.—1 new-dollar = 41 btz. (5.72). 1 crown dollar 25 btz. (3.50). 1 little
dollar = 20 btz. (2.80). $\frac{1}{2}$ dollar or 1 fl. = 10 btz. 1 btz. = 4 kr.
(1 fl. = fcs. 1.43 cts. = 1/1¼d.)

FREIBURG.—Piecettes octuple (56 kr. or 14 btz.) (fcs. 1.43 = 1/1¼d.)

NEUCHÂTEL.—21 batzen-piece (fcs. 2.68 or 2/1¼d.) 14 batzen-piece also 10½ btz.-
piece and 7 btz.-piece. 1 batzen (13 cts.) = 2 kreuzer or half-batzen.

TESSIN.—1 new-dollar = $8\frac{1}{2}$ lire. 1 lire = 20 soldi or kz. 1 soldi = 4 quatrini or
12 denari. (1 lire = fcs. 0.67 or 6½d.)

GENEVA.—1 new-dollar = fcs. 5.72. 1 fr. = 100 cts. or present value.

It will be seen by the above that the silver currency was the legal one.
At the same time, gold coins were also issued inland; for example:

IN BERNE.—Dublone, or 16 old francs (fcs. 22.80). Ducaten, or 8 old francs
(fcs. 11.80).

IN LUCERNE.—24 fl. or 32 old francs (fcs. 45.60.) 12 fl. or 16 old francs
(fcs. 22.80). 20 francs and 10 francs (fcs. 28.50 and 14.25 respectively).

GENEVA.—20 and 10 francs (value as to-day).

By way of change, I will now allude to the different Federal decrees and reports of the Federal Postal Department, respecting the currency; first, concerning the Cantonal systems; secondly, the compromise system; and thirdly, the present Latin-money system. The first decree bears the date June 30th, 1849, and says:

§ 1. "At the money counters of the different offices, until the establishment of a general Swiss money system, all coins which are in authorised circulation in the Cantons, shall be accepted in each Canton at the exchange value, which is the recognised standard at the public money counters of the said Cantons, etc."

The second step in this direction is the decree of the Federal Postal Department of September 17th, 1849, which came into force October 1st same year.

p. 11. "The reckonings must be made in Swiss francs, rappen, and half-rappen. On the other hand, the rates on letters and parcels must be marked in kreuzers. Where the Swiss franc system does not exist, the rates must be levied at an equivalent value to the existing legal one then in use. One kreuzer shall be considered 2½ rappen."

The Federal Assembly, on May 7th, 1850, determined, in order to carry out Article 36 of the constitutional law, the adoption of the present money system.

The Federal law concerning Swiss money-reform of the same date says in—

p. 21. "The new coinage shall come into force at the date when the last coining-section of the new money has been emitted. Until that time—from July 1st, 1850

—the following valuation of foreign current moneys shall be acknowledged at all Federal money counters :

The Brabant or Crown dollar	=	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	batzen.
The five franc dollar	=	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	„
The South German florin	=	15	„
The Austrian 20 kreuzer piece	=	15	„
The French 2 franc piece	=	14	„

“The Swiss gold, and also large and small silver coins in the old coinage, shall be accepted according to the appended Tariff of Regulations.”

p. 23. “From the time the new currency comes into force, it is to be accepted in all business transactions of the Federal and Cantonal Authorities.”

I do not think it necessary to give the above-named Regulation Tariff, which only gives their value in the old Franc system, for the different Cantonal coins.

The items of a competition for the drawing of a new stamp for the Swiss coinage were made known by the Federal Council on May 13th, 1850, in accordance with the Money law of May 7th, 1850.

On March 25th, 1850, the tariff, for the calling-in value for all the old Cantonal coins, was issued, giving the value in the new coinage.

This new Money system necessitated a revision of the old law relating to postal rates, and the Federal Assembly decided, on August 25th, 1851, on a new one which fixes—

5 cts. for half a loth ($\frac{1}{4}$ ounce) for a distance up to 2 Swiss miles.

10 cts. up to 10 Swiss miles, and 15 cts. over 10 miles.

(One Swiss mile or *Stunde* is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ Eng. miles.)

This law came into force on January 1st, 1852, and the Federal Council was empowered to bring some of the clauses into force even before this date, which probably happened in the first postal district, as we may consider the stamp of the first postal district as equivalent to the two Swiss miles' distance.

ABRIDGED REPORTS OF THE FEDERAL POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE HIGH FEDERAL ASSEMBLY.

Report for its business management, November 21st, 1848, until December 31st, 1849.

According to the decision of the Federal Assembly, 1848, all the Post-offices in the whole of Switzerland were taken over by the Federation on January 1st, 1849.

The first care, therefore, was to form a legal foundation for the new administration, and specially to prepare the outlines of the laws concerning the revenues of the post, the rights and duties of the postal administration, the arrangements for payment of the personalities, and the law relating to the postal rates; which had to be submitted to the Federal Assembly.

These aforesaid laws caused the issuing of executive orders, of the different instructions and service regulations, so that on the whole an essential change could not possibly be secured at once, especially in the Postal Service of the exterior.

The eighteen Cantonal Administrations which, up to the present, had conducted the Postal Departments under their charge according to their own ideas, with all possible differences in organization, principles of administration, and charges, had to remain in exactly the same condition for fully seven months more, and only after

the Federal laws came into action, in May and June, was it possible to issue the executive orders.

On July 1st the new rates for the daily papers were put into force; on September 1st the new Directors of the Postal Districts entered into office; but the new laws concerning the revenues, the organization, and the rates, could not be entirely enforced until the first of October.

Special conditions existed in the Canton of Schaffhausen with reference to the Feudal Lease System to the postal administration of Thurn and Taxis, which had to be put in order.

Report. January 1st to December 31st, 1850. There is nothing special.

Report. January 1st to December 31st, 1851. The following is of interest:—

	No. of Letters.	1850.	1851.
In the Inland.	Ortspost	518,604	599,172
I.	Rayon for letter to 10 miles distance	6,041,201	6,871,709
II.	" " 10-25 "	2,495,517	2,683,814
III.	" " 25-40 "	619,478	677,738
IV.	" " 40 and more .	307,062	318,791
		9,981,862	11,151,224
Foreign		3,685,146	3,723,322
Letters free of charge		1,439,109	1,489,127
		15,106,117	16,363,673

According to this summary, the franked letters from 1850 to 1851 increased by 1,207,708, but the income remained about the same in both years. The explanation of this seeming contradiction is found on comparing the accounts paid to foreign countries, and also by the proceeds of franking stamps, which realised 36,000 francs more in the last quarter of 1850 than the last quarter of 1851, as no more franking stamps could be given out on account of the introduction of the new postal rate law.

For historic purposes I propose to give the names of the first Postal Directors for the eleven Swiss Postal Districts, those nominated having to enter into office on September 1st, 1849; and were elected to the post by the Federal Council, August 8th or 9th, 1849.

Director for Postal District.

- I. Geneva J. Collignon-Faure (Dec. 1st, 1849).
- II. Lausanne Fr. Kohler (Oct. 17th, 1849, to Feb. 27th, 1850).
- III. Berne Joh. Alb. Kistler (Nov. 30th to Dec. 24th, 1849).
- IV. Neuenburg Ad. Jeanrenaud (Oct. 22nd to Dec. 1st, 1849).
- V. Basel J. Bernoulli (Dec. 1st, 1849).
- VI. Aarau Alex. Steinhäusler (Oct. 17th, 1849).
- VII. Lucerne Joseph Troxler (Sept. 24th, 1849).
- VIII. Zurich Joh. Jacob Schweizer (Oct. 26th to Dec. 24th, 1849).
- IX. St. Gallen Th. Ferd Grob (Dec. 7th, 1849).
- X. Chur Stäger (Sept. 19th to Dec. 24th, 1849).
- XI. Bellenz A. Nessi (Jan. 7th to Feb. 27th, 1850).

N.B.—On the dates given () the ordinary staff for all Post-Offices were nominated by the Federal Council.

The founder of the Swiss postal arrangements is Herr Dr. W. Naef, first Federal Counsel (in England named ministers) for the postal department.

(To be continued.)

Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

NOTE.—*The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*

DISCOVERIES.

BRAZIL.—Mr. Wickham Jones has submitted to our inspection a specimen of the 100 reis, red and blue, of the 1891 issue, in which the word CORREIO, on the left-hand side, is misspelt CORRBIO. The erroneous “B” seems quite correctly formed, nor does the stamp shew any signs of having been tampered with. We are therefore constrained to acknowledge it as a genuine and distinct variety. As this stamp is also known with the frame inverted, it is not unlikely that a minor error should also have been perpetrated. The shade of blue is dull, not ultramarine, and the stamp is duly postmarked.

VICTORIA.—Mr. Hagen, of Sydney, has just been fortunate enough to discover a hitherto unchronicled, and even *unsuspected*, variety of the Victorian 6d. blue, laureated head. This stamp is on paper watermarked with double-lined figure 2, is used, and on portion of the original envelope, the date being 10th August, 1870. The stamp has been submitted to Mr. David H. Hill, of Melbourne, who pronounces it to be an undoubtedly new variety, and considers that the paper is similar to that borrowed from Tasmania in 1863, but of which only the 1 and 4 paper have been hitherto recorded as used for the laureated series.

So far as we in Australia are aware, this stamp is unique, as it has never been chronicled before.

THE VICTORIA TWOPENNY “EMBLEMS.”

THIS stamp, without watermark, on white wove paper, although common imperforate, was always scarce rouletted, and perforated was as a “visit of angels.” In the latter condition it is on a soft, grainy paper, quite different from the harder and generally thicker and firmer quality employed for the 1d., 2d., and 4d. imperforate, which followed the star watermarked series, and of which the last-named is scarce. Of the same values *rouletted*, the two former are on the harder paper, and the 4d. on the soft. In the case of these stamps perforated, all are on the soft, grainy paper, and are, doubtlessly, of considerably later origin. We have alluded thus to the question, not that the stamp is a novelty to us in this country, but on account of the following interesting letter from Mr. Derrick, which has appeared in *The Australian Philatelist* for September last:—

“DEAR SIR,—When the list of Mr. M. P. Castle’s Australian collection was published, after its purchase by Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., many collectors noticed that it was said to contain a copy of the twopenny ‘emblems’ Victoria, on wove

unwatermarked paper *perforated*. This variety has all along been included in Stanley Gibbons' catalogue, but Victorian collectors, at any rate, knew nothing until recently of its existence.

"Some months ago Mr. C. B. Donne found one, and believing this to be right I purchased it. It was off the original paper. After satisfying myself that it was what it professed to be, I showed it at a meeting of the Victorian Philatelic Society. Some agreed with me, and the rest who saw it acknowledged that it 'was like him.' There was, however, no collateral evidence about this specimen.

"The matter has, however, been now quite set at rest. The other week Mr. J. Davis procured an envelope having three 'emblems,' two penny and one twopenny, all perforated, and on being examined these proved to be all on the same paper, wove and unwatermarked. I was fortunate enough to secure this also. The envelope is postmarked Gisborne, Dec. 16th, 1859. The following information, supplied by Mr. David H. Hill, is ample proof as to its being actually a perforated copy of the first issue of the twopenny emblems, commonly found unperforated, and more rarely rouletted—the notes in parentheses are my own:—"The first issue of the 2d. emblems, *i.e.* on wove unwatermarked paper, took place in May, 1857. (That is concurrently with the 1d. and 4d. star watermark emblems, imperf.) These were printed by Calvert Bros. The next printing was done by G. W. Robinson, in brownish lilac or deep grey lilac, paper laid horizontally and vertically. The first issue of these took place in July, 1858, and the stamps were *all rouletted*. This supply of two and a-half millions lasted nearly three years.

"There was no further printing of the twopenny till May, 1861, when the paper watermarked TWOPENCE was used, and 12,000 sheets were printed with this watermark. These lasted just 12 months.

"In December, 1862, 3000 sheets of the "threepence" paper were used, and in April, 1863, the single line 2 paper came into use, and continued in use as long as the twopenny of this type was in issue.

"The "twopence" paper (that is, apart from the "stars," the first paper that was watermarked) was not received from England until June, 1860, so that a stamp used in *December*, 1859, could not have been on this paper'—(it manifestly was not of the second printing on laid paper, therefore must have been on the first.)—Yours, &c.,

"A. J. DERRICK.

"MELBOURNE, 13th Sept., 1895."

We have only to add that the specimen in Mr. Castle's collection was bought several years since from Mr. C. J. Phillips, of Birmingham, who had three or four specimens, which the latter was fortunate enough to be able to dispose of for a few shillings each.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES TWOPENNY, BLUE, OF 1862-4.

MR. A. E. WRIGHTMAN, R.N., has some interesting notes in the same Journal upon the various and really interesting varieties of this stamp and its congener—the 1d.—divided under the several heads of the two different watermarks of N.S.W. and Crown. A list of the perforations is also given, but these—the like remark applying to other recent New South Wales stamps—much require a careful examination and condensation *à la* "Saint Vincent," of Messrs. Bacon and Napier. Mr. Wrightman says:

"In the following notes I give a description of the varieties in my own collection with the exception of the 2d. blue on paper wmk. double-line 2, which I believe


is well authenticated. There are probably other varieties, but which, as I have never seen them, I am not in a position to describe. I think it not at all unlikely that several varieties have been described in the past which do not exist, but once by error having been described, have been added by succeeding cataloguers to the list they have themselves framed."

Now with regard to this stamp watermarked double-line 3, we feel sure that it belongs to the same class as the "10d. Van Dieman's Land," the "6d. New Zealand on blue paper," and such like mediæval bogies. We do not believe in its existence. It was chronicled in Oceania, but we fancy that the specimen that stood sponsor for it, "unfolded a tail" and developed into the "common or garden" variety of double-lined 5. This variety has been wisely eliminated from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons' new catalogue, after consultation with the acknowledged best authorities on Australian stamps in this country.

Occasional Notes.

NOTE — *The co-operation of Philatelists is invited in order to make this column of a varied and interesting nature.*


THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY'S AFRICAN CATALOGUE.

E are pleased to be able to announce the forthcoming appearance of the first portion of this long-expected work. It will comprise the following countries: British Bechuanaland, British East, British Central, and British South Africa and the Cape of Good Hope, and will include, beyond the illustrations of the stamps interspersed in the text, eight sheets of photo-mezzo illustrations. In view of the recent developments in South African affairs—postal and general—the present appearance of the work will be very opportune. All stamps issued up to the end of 1894 are listed, but in the case of British East Africa, which passed from the Company to the Crown in February of this year, the new issue has been included.

We venture to suggest that this portion of the African volume will be found of great interest, and would counsel desiring purchasers to make early application for copies, in order to avoid disappointment, as there will, we are informed, be only 250 copies beyond those required for the purposes of the London Philatelic Society. The price of Part I. will be 10s. 6d. for single copies, or 7s. 6d. net to the trade.

It is an evidence of the lively interest taken in the Society's work by the Hon. Vice-President, that the major portion of the stamps illustrated are from the collection of H.R.H. the Duke of York.

A VERY IMPORTANT CASE.

F very far-reaching interest to the body Philatelic, in general, was the case tried at Bow Street, before Sir John Bridge, the chief of the Metropolitan Magistrates, on the 18th of this month. It will be seen from

the account published in the daily papers, which we now reproduce, that the attempt of the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue to convict the *Exchange and Mart*, of the illegal possession and use of dies of stamps, used for illustrative purposes, signally failed, and that the worthy magistrate, adopting this obvious common-sense view, held that "a lawful excuse for possession" had been shown, and that therefore the prosecution must fail. It is to be hoped, in the interests of all the stamp-collecting world, that this decision will be regarded as final, in which case it will afford a considerable relief to many intending publishers of philatelic works :

"Mr. Upcott Gill, proprietor of the *Bazaar, Exchange and Mart*, appeared before Sir John Bridge, to a summons charging him with being in the possession of dies for making fictitious stamps.—Mr. Alpe prosecuted on behalf of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue; Mr. Charles Matthews defended.—Mr. Alpe explained that the proceedings were taken under Section 7 of the Post-office Protection Act, 47 and 48 Vic., chap. 70. The Defendant was a newspaper proprietor and printer in the Strand, and had printing offices in Drury Lane. The charge against him was that between May 18th and June 11th, he had in his possession a certain block or instrument for making a postal stamp used at the Cape of Good Hope, and sold for 2½d. The Act said that no person should make, without lawful excuse, or have in his possession material for making, fictitious stamps. It would be proved that Defendant had in his possession a block or die capable of producing a stamp calculated to deceive. The penalty was £20 only, as the die in question was for a Colonial stamp, but anyone found in possession of a die for making a British stamp was guilty of a felony.—Arthur Llewellyn, Detective-Inspector of Inland Revenue, stated that on June 1st he went to the printing works of the *Bazaar, Exchange and Mart*, and saw a number of dies intended for the printing of stamps. The manager refused to give them up, but when the Defendant was spoken to on the 7th of the same month, he handed Witness four dies. He took them to Somerset House. One was detained, and the others handed back to the Defendant.—In reply to Mr. Matthews, Witness said he was informed that the dies were to be used in the production of a supplement to the periodical, giving illustrations of foreign and Colonial stamps. Witness remembered that the Defendant and a Mr. Van Hoytam waited upon the Somerset House authorities, with respect to using these dies, before any complaint was made to them. He was present at the interview, but had not the slightest idea as to what took place.—Hy. Hinsley, in the employ of Messrs. De La Rue, was called to prove that the die found in the Defendant's possession was capable of producing a copy of a Cape of Good Hope stamp, and said that the only difference was caused by the lines on the surface being broken.—Mr. Alpe said he did not impute any dishonourable motives to the Defendant. All he wished to prove was that he had infringed the Act.—Mr. Matthews handed in a catalogue consisting of *facsimiles* of foreign stamps. He also showed to the magistrate an album with *facsimiles* of foreign stamps printed on each leaf. This kind of thing had, he said, been going on for years without any interference on the part of the authorities.—Mr. Alpe: It has become so common that we want to put a stop to it.—Mr. Matthews said he was glad that Mr. Alpe had announced that, in the opinion of the authorities, the Defendant had no dishonourable object. The Defendant was fully entitled to that expression of opinion.—*Sir John Bridge, in giving his decision, said he thought possession of stamps of this sort was prima facie an offence, and the man in possession of them must show a lawful excuse. THIS, HOWEVER, HAD NOW BEEN SHOWN, AND THE CASE WOULD BE DISMISSED.*"

THE CRUSADE AGAINST SPECULATIVE ISSUES.

THERE are yet more adherents to the army of crusaders. One of the leading Album publishers in Germany has already announced his intention of discarding from his next issue, all the specimens that are now being banned by the S.S.S.S. and general consent, a decision that, if followed, will be of the most powerful effect. A meeting of the leading publishers of printed Stamp Albums, to agree upon a ground of future stamp-exclusions, would seem to be feasible at this juncture, and we venture to commend such to the initiative of the S.S.S.S.

An important German Society, deputed for the task by the Mannheim Congress, that of the town of Elberfeld—has also entered the lists, and issued a spirited declaration of hostility to the speculative stamp, which has been widely and prominently inserted in Continental journals. The principal object of this pronouncement is to induce a general and united action as detailed by the German collectors, in order to stamp out the evil. Fuller information can be obtained from Herr E. Weegman, the President, Elberfeld.

In the announcement made by the Scott Stamp and Coin Co. of New York, as to the Issue of the 1896 *International Postage and Stamp Album*, there is a further important indication of the increasing amount of public opinion as to Speculative Issues. The publishers state that "all stamps black-listed by the S.S.S.S. have been passed by, and we sincerely hope that dealers and collectors in the United States will generally support us in our attempt to make the crusade effective. We feel convinced that the future of the stamp business is at stake in this matter, and the terrible inundation of stamps issued for charitable and less benevolent purposes, which has rolled in upon us during the past six months, proves that the concerted action for the elimination of these pests came none too soon. As a few, we may mention the following, some of which have appeared, and others of which are threatened: Portugal, San Antonio; Italy, Capture of Rome; Greece, Olympian Games; Belgium, Brussels and Liege series; Peru, Victory of Pierola; Uruguay; South African Republic, introduction of postage stamps; Egypt."

This announcement from so well known a firm, is a weighty one; and if other publishers will only follow the lead already set in this and other instances, there is a fair chance of exterminating the hydra-headed reptile.

THE ENGLISH SPECIALIST'S JOURNAL.

UNDER this designation, Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen has issued a neat little Journal, especially devoted to the interests of that numerous body which affects the stamps of Great Britain, which is their proper title. Although much has been written—and will be—about our own stamps, there is constantly fresh matter of an interesting nature to be found, and we wish our youngest contemporary all success in its new venture.

CATALOGUE OF THE REVENUE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH COLONIES.

MR. WALTER MORLEY, 186, West Green Road, Tottenham, has now issued a companion volume to that dealing with the Postal Issues. In this case it treats only of the Fiscal stamps of the British Empire, and their number may be gauged by the fact that there are no less than eighty-seven pages of matter. As far as our limited knowledge of Fiscals goes, the Catalogue is a good and a useful one, and should be of great service to the collectors of Revenue stamps.

"HOBBIES."

HIS homely and familiar word is the name adopted by a handy little Journal published weekly (Bouverie House, Salisbury Square, E.C.), in which almost every pursuit and recreative occupation is freely dealt with. Philately has now been included, and an article by Mr. Percy C. Bishop, under the title of "Stamps Week-by-Week," worthily occupies the leading position in the Journal. The ever-increasing attention given to stamps by the non-Philatelic Press is a gratifying evidence of growing power. *Hobbies* is well illustrated, and a marvel of cheapness for a penny.

WEST INDIAN PHILATELY.

PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION.

WITH a view of establishing a Philatelic Society in this island, for the further encouragement of stamp collecting, and for retaining stamps in the island, by means of interchange among members, the following gentlemen met last evening, at the Ice Establishment, in the upper room, kindly placed at their disposal by Mr. Skinner: F. B. Archer, Esq., M.B.C.M., Messrs. McCormack, Coates, Larsen, Cox, O. R. Grannum, J. H. Barrow, E. N. Jones, J. C. F. Belgrave, and J. E. Mayers. Excuses were offered for the absence of Mr. J. Gardiner Austin and a few other gentlemen, owing to other engagements.

"The meeting decided to organize the Society, and the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee: Messrs. Austin, Coates, Cox, and Barrow, with Mr. J. E. Mayers as Secretary and Treasurer. The entrance fee was fixed at 2s. 6d., and subscription 1s. per month.

"It is expected that a large number of residents, including ladies, will promptly enrol their names as members of the association. Mr. Belgrave mentioned that he was requested by collectors in the neighbouring islands to add their names; but the meeting deemed it advisable, for the present, to confine its operations among residents only.

"A Philatelic Association, firmly established in Barbados, should prove a power for good, as stamp collecting revives in the old boys a knowledge of history and geography, while in the youngsters it creates emulation; it acts also as a check to dishonest speculators, collectors having the opportunity of consulting experts on the value or genuineness of stamps offered for sale or exchange."—*Barbados Bulletin*, August 15, 1895.

AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

I HAVE read with much interest Mr. Castle's article on the "Registered Stamps" of New South South Wales, appearing in the July number of the *London Philatelist*, and with permission will add a few remarks.

With regard to the perforated stamp, on paper watermarked with double-lined figure 6, Mr. Castle inclines to the belief that the paper was part of that used for the large square 6d. postage stamp. This opinion is quite correct, no special watermarked paper having been made for the Registered stamps. On examination of specimens the watermark will be found frequently out of centre, a result that would naturally result from the use of paper with watermarks gauged to fit a much larger stamp. The 6d. postage stamp plate bore 100 stamps in 10 rows of 10, and measured 27×27 centimetres, while the registered plate contained 50 stamps in 5 rows of 10, and measured only $21\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ centimetres. Two impressions of the registered plate could be obtained from each sheet of the 6d. paper. I cannot at present give you any exact information as to the date on which the watermarked paper was first used.

I have another reprint to add to Mr. Castle's list, one that appeared about two years ago. It is printed in vermilion and Prussian blue, on thin wove paper, without watermark, is perforated 10, and surcharged REPRINT in small thin capitals, in black. It is found on all the "Specimen" sheets now on sale at the General Post-office, Sydney. I enclose a copy for your inspection.

* * * * *

Queensland is still providing food for the thoughtful and speculative philatelist, in the shape of more paper varieties. The latest to appear has a real interest attaching to it, in that a new and hitherto untried preventative against fraud has been introduced. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (of altered type) has been printed on a paper which is variously described as "secret mark," "impressed," or "imitation watermark" paper. Looked at in the ordinary way, the stamp appears to be on plain rather thin wove paper, without watermark, but upon holding the stamp face upwards, at such an angle that the light falls well upon it, the mark of Q under a Crown can be seen distinctly, on an unused sheet, though a single specimen does not "yield up its secret" so easily, and it is almost impossible to decipher it on a used specimen.

The 1s. stamp has also been printed on the "Beer Duty" paper.



New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.



BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

—We illustrate the surcharge on the late Company stamps. A list of the values which were overprinted will be found in our September number, page 243.

CEYLON.—We learn that the current series of postage stamps have been surcharged "On Service." These were to commence doing duty on October 1st.

GIBRALTAR.—The 1 peseta adhesive is now printed in two colours, the value in blue, and the remainder of design in light-brown.

Adhesive. 1 peseta, light-brown and blue.

INDIA.—As hoped, we are now able to



include in our chronicle a cut of the high values chronicled on page 269. We think all our readers will agree that these are the handsomest stamps supplied to any of our Colonies of late. We should

like to see such stamps take the place of our own very ordinary high value designs.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The *Australian Philatelist* has received a copy of the current 2d. adhesive, perf. 13, and states that the new machine, which does its work clearly and well, will be used on all values as supplies are required.

Adhesive. 2d., red-brown; perf. 13.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Pahang*.—The new type illustrated on page 270 has reached

this State, but as yet the 3 cents only has been seen.

Adhesive. 3 c., lilac and carmine.

TURKS ISLANDS.—Here is an illustration of the recent envelope (see page 270).



EUROPE.

BELGIUM.—We are indebted to Mr. H. Quare for specimens of the new unpaid



stamps, which came into use on the 1st inst. We illustrate both the centime and franc types.

Unpaid Letter Stamps. 5 c., green.
10 c., light brown.
20 c., grey-green.
50 c., bistre.
1 fr., rose.

BULGARIA.—*Le T.-P.* informs us that the 50 stot. unpaid stamp has been surcharged "30" underneath the old value, which has been erased by a dash through the figures. These were issued on October 18th, and it would appear that the stamps exist both perf. and imperf.

Unpaid Letter Stamps.
30 on 50 stot., red surch. on blue; perf. 11½.
" " " imperf.

FINLAND.—A change of perforation is taking place in the current adhesives; where the perforation has been 12½, it is in future to gauge 14. At present only the 25 pen. has been issued thus, the others are to appear as the stock of the various values are used up. There has also been a new post card issued, which differs from the late one in the type, and, as the *Monthly Journal* states, in the arms, which are now

in a shield without the *bordure*; there is also no star in the lower left corner.

Post Card. 10 pen., rose and black on cream.
Adhesive. 25 pen., blue; perf. 14.

FRANCE.—The 15 c. unpaid stamp, according to *Le Timbre-Poste*, was printed in green in the beginning of September.

Unpaid Letter Stamp. 15 c., green.

GREECE.—The *Monthly Journal* chronicles the current 10 lepta, Postal Union card on yellow-green card.

Post Card. 10 lepta, rose-red on yellow-green.

THE LEVANT.—*Le T.-P.* informs us that Postcards, single and reply, and also a Letter Card, have been issued. The stamps are of the same type as the current adhesives.

Postcards. 4 kopecks, green on yellow.
 4+4 „ „ „ „ (reply).
Letter Card. 10 „ „ „ „ carmine on white.

LUXEMBURG.—*Le Timbre Poste* chronicles the following cards with stamp of the new type (page 173).

Post Cards. 5 c., green.
 5×5 c. „ „ (reply).
 10 c., carmine.
 10×10 c. „ „ (reply).

NORWAY.—The 5 öre card has now the stamp with NORGE redrawn.

Post Card. 5 öre, green on white.

PORTUGAL.—We have received from Mr.



Marsden specimens of a new type of adhesives, which we illustrate. We have the values up to 300 reis; these are printed in two colours (the value in black), on wove paper, perf. 12.

Adhesives. 2½ r., grey and black.
 5 r., salmon and black.
 10 r., green „ „
 15 r., brown „ „
 20 r., mauve „ „
 25 r., blueish-mauve and black.
 50 r., blue „ „
 75 r., rose „ „
 80 r., lilac „ „
 100 r., deep blue and black on azure.
 150 r., brown „ „ on yellow.
 200 r., red-lilac „ „ on (?)
 300 r., blue and black on pink.

ROUMANIA.—A 25 bani delivery stamp has been issued; it is similar in type to the unpaid letter stamps, but bears the inscription, "TAXA DE FACTAGIU."

Delivery Stamp. 25 bani, red-brown.

AMERICA.

BOLIVIA.—The *A. J. of Ph.* reports the 1, 2, and 10 centavos printed in a new shade, with perforation 13½ in place of 14½.

Adhesives. 1 c., pale yellow.
 2 c., carmine-red.
 10 c., lilac-brown.

COLUMBIAN REPUBLIC.—*Antioquia.* A new issue is said to be in preparation, on the appearance of which the suppressed stamps are to be sold by auction.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.—The 5 and 10 centavos of the new type (p. 244) are now current, perf. 12½ × 14.

Adhesives. 5 c., blue.
 10 c., orange.

UNITED STATES.—According to the *M.P.* the whole series of the current adhesives are now in use with the watermark, also the Special Delivery stamp and Postage Due set. In this case we have to add to our chronicle:

Adhesives. 6 c., red-brown (with wmk.).
 50 c., orange „ „
 8 5, grey-green „ „
Special Delivery. 10 c., blue „ „
Postage Due. 1 c., carmine „ „
 2 c. „ „ „ „
 3 c. „ „ „ „
 5 c. „ „ „ „
 10 c. „ „ „ „
 10 c. „ „ „ „
 50 c. „ „ „ „

URUGUAY.—We have received from Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. what we presume constitute the first instalment of



the new general issue spoken of in June last. These are the one centavo, and 5 centavo values. As we illustrate them, we need not, beyond saying they are perforated 15, describe them further.

Adhesives. 1 c., ochre.
 5 c., red-brown.

OTHER COUNTRIES.

ERITREA.—We learn, on the authority of the *A. J. of Ph.*, that the current 45 centesimos of Italy has been surcharged "Colonia Eritrea."

Adhesive. 45 c., olive-green, black surch.

NATIVE INDIAN STATES.—*Gwalior.*—The current ½, 1, 2, 4, and 8 annas stamps have been surcharged in Devanagri characters in two lines: "Gwalior" at top; "Service" beneath. There is no English overprint.

Adhesives. ½ anna, green, black surch.
 1 „ „ violet-brown, black surch.
 2 „ „ ultramarine, „ „
 3 „ „ orange, „ „
 4 „ „ green, „ „
 8 „ „ violet, „ „

TRANSVAAL.—The *M. J.* notes the recent 1d. on 2½d. surcharge, *inverted*. We shall not be surprised at any varieties which may turn up in these stamps. We have omitted to chronicle the 2½d. adhesive in the new type.

Adhesive. 2½d., mauve.

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. DUKE ALFRED OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &c.

Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1895-96:

President—THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—R. PEARCE.

Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.

Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON.

R. EHRENBACH.

D. GARTH.

A. W. CHAMBERS.

E. B. EVANS.

T. WICKHAM JONES.

THE first meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 18th October, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

The members present comprised Messrs. M. P. Castle, R. Ehrenbach, E. D. Bacon, A. W. Chambers, R. Meyer, Gordon Smith, A. St. Leger Burrowes, C. N. Biggs, J. C. Potter, T. Wickham Jones, J. G. Tolhurst, R. Pearce, W. Silk, T. Maycock, H. R. Oldfield, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read the correspondence, amongst which was a letter from Mr. Salter-Whiter, tendering his resignation of membership at the end of the present year, owing to his contemplated absence from England, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

The receipt from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, of their "Handbook of St. Vincent Stamps," and their "New Descriptive Price List of Postage Stamps"; from Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen, of his "Priced Catalogue of Stamps of the United Kingdom"; from the Birmingham Philatelic Society, of their Annual Report; from Mr. E. B. Jones (Iowa), of his "Catalogue of Philatelic Literature"; from Dr. Legrand, of the "Annuaire de la Société Nouvelle de Timbrologie for 1894"; from Messrs. R. F. Albrecht and Co., of a bound copy of the priced Catalogues of their sales in 1894; and from Messrs. Cameron and Co., of Dr. J. M. del Pont's pamphlet on the "Argentine Stamps of the First Issue"—all for the Society's Library, were directed

in each case to be acknowledged with the thanks of the Society.

Mr. H. L. Duveen, proposed by Mr. Gordon Smith, and seconded by the Vice-President; Mr. T. W. Hall, and Mr. H. Quare, both proposed by Mr. Wickham Jones, and seconded by the Secretary; Mr. William Block, proposed by Mr. Steudel, and seconded by Mr. J. Siewert; Mr. J. J. Haupt, and Mr. A. A. Osborn, both proposed by Captain Norris-Newman, and seconded by the Vice-President; Mrs. Marshall, and Mr. C. Stewart-Wilson, both proposed by Mr. C. F. Larmour, and seconded by Mr. A. A. Lyall; Mr. A. G. Griffith, proposed by the Secretary, and seconded by the Assistant-Secretary; and Mr. F. F. Burghard, proposed by the President, and seconded by Mr. E. D. Bacon, were elected members of the Society.

In view of the fact that the members on the roll had now nearly reached the number when the increased entrance fee would be applicable, it was referred to the Secretary and Treasurer to consider, and report on the position to a future meeting of the Society.

The Vice-President then read a paper on "The Lithographic Errors of Oldenburg," compiled by himself and Mr. R. Ehrenbach. After referring to the manner in which the subject had been treated in recent German publications, the paper proceeded to explain the reasons of the writers for considering that the errors referred to were worthy of the attention of collectors. A detailed list and description of the several varieties was given, illustrated by a sheet of the original

stamps, and an admirable series of photo-mezzotypes, which were handed round for comparison and examination.

An interesting discussion ensued, in which many of the members took part; and, on the motion of Mr. Oldfield, seconded by Mr. Wickham Jones, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Castle and Mr. Ehrenbach for their most interesting and valuable paper.

THE second meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 25th October, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

The members in attendance were Messrs. M. P. Castle, E. B. Evans, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, H. R. Oldfield, Gordon Smith, T. Maycock, J. C. Potter, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, E. D. Bacon, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair was taken by the Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Manchester Society, with reference to the measurement of perforations, and containing a suggestion as to a standard gauge being prepared by the London Society. The letter was referred to the Committee who have the whole subject under consideration, to be dealt with by them in their report to the Society.

A long discussion ensued on the subject of the work to be done at the alternate meetings of the Society during the current season. Mr. Nankivell formulated a scheme for a monthly publication of work, to be prepared by Editorial Committees at fortnightly meetings, to be held for the settlement of lists of stamps previously printed and circulated amongst members, commencing with a re-issue of some of the publications of the Society which are out of print. In the course of his observations, and those of other members, various suggestions were made with the object of providing for attractive meetings. In view of the fact that the matter ready for publication was already ahead of the publishing powers of the Society, it was moved by Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Oldfield, and resolved—"That during the present season each alternate Friday evening be devoted to an informal meeting affording opportunities for general discussion on matters of Philatelic interest, and for exchange of stamps, the Secretary to give notice of any special matters on which members may signify

their desire to invite discussion at any particular meeting."

THE third meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 1st November, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

The chair was occupied by Major Evans, in the absence of the President and Vice-President, the other members present being Messrs. F. A. Philbrick, R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, T. W. Hall, T. Wickham Jones, T. Maycock, W. Silk, N. Newton, Gordon Smith, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, E. D. Bacon, and J. A. Tilleard.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the question of the Annual Dinner of the Society was discussed, and the general opinion of the members present being that it would not be desirable to fix a date earlier than the month of February next, the matter was adjourned for further discussion at a later date.

Major Evans then read a paper on "The Stamped Telegraph Forms of the United Kingdom," giving a complete history of the subject dealt with so far as ascertained up to the present time. A list of all the stamps and forms referred to was appended to the paper, which was illustrated by the fine collection of the author, kindly produced by him for inspection by members present.

After some discussion, Mr. Philbrick moved a hearty vote of thanks to Major Evans for his very interesting paper, and the resolution being seconded by Mr. Bacon, was carried unanimously.

The Secretary called attention to the abuses arising from the present system of stamping private envelopes at Somerset House, and on his motion, seconded by Mr. Pearce, it was resolved "that the matter be referred to the Committee for dealing with the question of speculative and unnecessary issues, with power to direct the Secretary, in the name of the Society, to approach the Inland Revenue Authorities on the subject of the steps which could be taken to remedy the abuses complained of."

THE fourth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House, on Friday, the 8th November, 1895, at 7.30 p.m., and was attended by the following members, viz., Messrs. E. D. Bacon, R. Ehrenbach, T. Maycock, T. W. Hall, L. S. Wells,

R. Pearce, E. J. Nankivell, J. A. Tilleard, B. D. Knox, J. C. Potter, R. Meyer, and F. E. Horton.

The chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon, in the absence of the President and Vice-President.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Secretary reported the receipt of a letter from Mr. S. H. Cotton, announcing his resignation of membership at the end of the current year, and the resignation was directed to be accepted with regret.

Mr. E. J. Nankivell then read a short paper on "The Hingeing of Stamps," explaining the advantages and disadvantages of the various methods in general use, and the reasons which had influenced him in adopting the principle of hingeing on the left side of the stamp. In the course of an interesting discussion which ensued, the opinion was generally expressed that no fixed principle could be laid down, the subject being one on which collectors would prefer to be guided by their individual

tastes and ideas. On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Ehrenbach, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Nankivell for his paper.

Mr. Maycock called attention to the report, in that day's *Times*, of the proceedings by the Inland Revenue Authorities against the proprietors of a newspaper in regard to the illustration of a Colonial stamp, and the Secretary explained what was understood to be the views of the General Post-office, and the Inland Revenue authorities, on the subject, and the opinion of a well-known legal authority as to the true construction of the Act under which the prosecution had been instituted.

The Hon. Secretary desires to call attention to the fact that the entrance fee, payable by all new members whose applications for membership are received after the 31st March, 1896, will be *Two Guineas* instead of *One Guinea*, the entrance fee at present payable.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: W. T. WILSON, ESQ.

Vice-Presidents: R. HOLLICK, ESQ., AND W. PIMM, ESQ.

Committee:

MR. V. LUNDEBLAD.

MR. W. S. VAUGHTON.

MR. C. A. STEPHENSON.

MR. W. F. WADAMS.

Hon. Sec. and Treas.: MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

OCT. 17th. Presidential Address.

Messrs. F. G. Bepler (London), E. C. Cooke (Acock's Green), W. R. Joynt (Dublin), were unanimously elected members.

Mr. W. T. Wilson then gave a most interesting and instructive paper on "Fashionable Stamps." After enumerating the various stamps at present in fashion, commencing with the West Indies, he proceeded to give the results of this fashion, specially noting the undue appreciation of the later issues, the rise in prices being caused more by speculators than by collectors. The special instances were all supported by the actual numbers printed, left on hand, etc. The whole paper was a valuable lesson to all who were present.*

Nov. 7. Display. Western Australia.

The following were unanimously elected members: Messrs. P. Kiderlen (Wurtemberg), H. E. M. Rolsted (Norway), A. Levy (Plymouth), R. Sneath (Sheffield), C. G. Taylor (Yarmouth), T. P. Dorman (North-

ampton), Pio Fabri (Rome), F. Hagen (Sydney), W. W. Worthington (New York), A. S. Weiler (Zanesville, U.S.A.), Max de Troostembergh (Brussels). Two applications were refused. Subscriptions were voted to a number of philatelic works and periodicals for the library.

Then followed the display, which was quite up to usual form. The chief interest was centred in the exceedingly fine selection shewn by the President, which, with the exception of one stamp, included two complete panes of sixty, of the first issue 4d. The differences in the position and type of corresponding stamps on the two panes, indicating alterations in the transfers, were carefully noted. Excepting the error of colour and the inverted centre, all varieties, including the roulettes, were shown in good numbers by the President and other members.

The November packet was again a "record," the value being £616 7s. 4½d, although the prices were in almost every case in favour of purchasers.

* It appears in this Issue.—ED.

THE BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE second monthly meeting for this session took place on Tuesday evening, the 12th November. Mr. W. M. Gray was voted to the chair, there being nine other members and a visitor from Leeds present. After the formal business of the meeting had been transacted, Mr. H. W. Atkinson read a paper on "The Stamps of the Argentine Republic." Mr. Atkinson dealt with his subject in a most interesting and instructive

manner, and the paper was much appreciated by the members present. His remarks were illustrated with a good collection of the stamps of the country dealt with, and Messrs. Gray, Scott, Skipwith, and others, also produced their collections for reference and comparison. The next meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, the 3rd December, 1895.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. President—BARON DE WORMS.

President—M. P. CASTLE.

Acting Hon. Secretary—W. T. WILLETT, West House, Brighton.

THE first meeting of the season, 1895-96, was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, October 14th, at 7.45 p.m., eleven members attended, with the President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, the librarian acknowledged the receipt of donations to the library from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., Mr. Ewen, Mr. Willett, to all of whom a cordial vote of thanks was passed. The Secretary stated that he would be abroad for some weeks, and Mr. W. T. Willett was appointed acting Hon. Secretary. On the motion of Dr. Seymour Burrows, seconded by Mr. W. T. Willett, it was unanimously resolved that the meetings should in future commence at 8.15 p.m. punctually. The meeting then proceeded to draw up a programme for the ensuing season, and after some discussion, the following syllabus was agreed to :

- Oct. 28. Display of Forgeries.
- Nov. 12. The Stamps of Naples.
Mr. M. P. Castle.
- Nov. 25. Display of Stamps on original covers,
and Post Cards.
- Dec. 9. Display of the Stamps of Great Britain.
- Dec. 23. Display of the Stamps of the U.S.A.
- Jan. 6. GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING, to be
followed by a SUPPER.
- Jan. 20. General Display.
Sir Henry Bunbury, Bart.
- Feb. 3. The Stamps of Tuscany.
Mr. M. P. Castle.
- Feb. 17. The Postmarked Adhesives of Great
Britain. Mr. C. F. D. Marshall.

- Mar. 3. General Display.
Mr. H. Stafford Smith.
- Mar. 17. The Stamps of Switzerland.
Mr. Otto Pfenniger.
- April 7. The Stamps of Norway.
Mr. J. W. Gillespie.
- April 21. The Stamps of Bahamas.
Mr. A. de Worms.
- May 5. The Stamps of Parma.
Mr. M. P. Castle.
- May 19. ANNUAL DINNER.

THE second meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, 28th October, at 8.15 p.m. Nine members were present, the President in the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, on the motion of Dr. Seymour Burrows, seconded by Mr. H. Stafford Smith, it was decided to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, November 12th, instead of Monday, 11th. The Society's collection of forgeries was then exhibited, and several members also brought to the meeting some very interesting specimens. A curious envelope was shown by the President, franked with two copies of the Naples 2 sgr., one being genuine, and the other forged, with a genuine obliteration, the President remarking that he considered these counterfeits, which by prepaying postage had deceived Governments, were eminently collectable. Several donations to the Society's collection were acknowledged with thanks.

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNON ROBERTS.

Vice-Presidents—W. DORNING BECKTON AND C. H. COOTE.

Hon. Secretary—W. W. MUNN. *Assistant Hon. Secretary*—C. H. COOTE.

Hon. Treasurer—G. B. DUERST. *Hon. Librarian*—F. BARRATT.

Committee—G. F. H. GIBSON. W. GRUNEWALD. E. PETRI.

SYLLABUS.

1895.		SESSION 1895-1896.
Sept.	27.	OPENING MEETING, 7 p m. Lantern Exhibition.
Oct.	4.	Discussion on Lantern Exhibition.
„	11.	“Queenland.” W. D. Beckton.
„	18.	Discussion—“Measurement of Performances.”
„	25.	“Alsace and Lorraine.” G. B. Duerst.
Nov.	1.	Exhibition and Discussion—“Sweden.”
„	8.	W. Grunewald.
„	15.	Discussion—“Best Stamp Mounts and Methods of Mounting a Collection.”
„	22.	Paper by the PRESIDENT.
„	29.	Exhibition and Discussion—“Canada.”
Dec.	6.	“Spain, 1850-56.” D. Ostara.
„	13.	Exhibition and Discussion—“West Coast Africa.”
„	20.	ANNUAL DINNER.
1896.		
Jan.	3.	P. L. Pemberton.
„	10.	Discussion—“Specialism v. General Collecting.”
„	17.	“Aerial Post.” G. B. Duerst.
„	24.	Exhibition and Discussion—“Cape of Good Hope.”
„	31.	“Modena.” E. Petri.
Feb.	7.	Exhibition and Discussion—“Bavaria.”
„	14.	“Greece,” Part I. W. D. Beckton.
„	21.	Discussion—“Philatelic Literature.”
„	28.	“Greece,” Part II. W. D. Beckton.
Mar.	6.	Exhibition and Discussion—“Italian States.”
„	13.	“Egypt.” J. H. Abbott.
„	20.	Exhibition—“Errors and Curiosities.”
„	27.	W. W. Munn.
April	1.	Exhibition and Discussion—“Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.”
„	10.	“Lantern Exhibition.” J. H. Abbott.
„	17.	Exhibition and Discussion—“Denmark and Iceland.”
„	24.	“Cyprus.” J. C. North.

Subjects.	Descriptions by
Queensland, 1866, 4d, litho. (4 varieties), 3d., engraved.	W. D. Beckton.
Roumania, 1868-9, 4 bani, vars.	G. B. Duerst.
Do. 1869, 15 bani, varieties.	G. B. Duerst.
United States, 1872 and 1882, 1 cent	W. W. Munn.
Do. do. 3 and 6 cents.	W. W. Munn.
Finland, 1856, 10 kop., genuine and forged	J. H. Abbott.
Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, Arms and Cross	W. D. Beckton.
Alsace and Lorraine, 10 cents, varieties	G. B. Duerst.
Do. do. 20 cents, varieties	G. B. Duerst.
United States, 1872-3, 7 and 12 cents, two types	W. W. Munn.
Do. 1872 and 1882, 10 and 30c.	W. W. Munn.
Buenos Ayres, 1858-9, 1 and 4 pesos	W. D. Beckton.
Modena, 9 cent, large and small “B. G.”	J. H. Abbott.
Roumania, 1871, 15 bani, vars.	G. B. Duerst.
Do. 1871-2, 25 bani, varieties	G. B. Duerst.
Hanover, 3 pf., rose, genuine and reprint	J. H. Abbott.
Hayti, 1882-6, 5 cents, varieties	G. B. Duerst.
Do. 1882-6, 20 cents, varieties	G. B. Duerst.
Moldavia, 1859, 5 paras, block of 4	W. D. Beckton.
Do. 1859, 40 paras, block of 4	W. D. Beckton.
Do. 1859, 80 paras, block of 6	W. D. Beckton.
Moldo-Wallachia, 1862, 30 paras, sheet of 40	W. D. Beckton.
Monte Video, 240 cents, genuine and forged	J. H. Abbott.
Wurtemberg, first issue, 3 types	G. B. Duerst.
United States, 1882, 5 cents, 2 types	W. W. Munn.
Do. 1890, 2 cents, varieties with caps	W. W. Munn.
France, 1849, 20 cents, genuine and reprint	W. D. Beckton.
Zurich, 1843, 6 rappen, genuine types and forgery	W. D. Beckton.
Bavaria, 6 kreuzer, Dies 1, 2	J. H. Abbott.
Roumania, 1870, 3 bani, 2 types	G. B. Duerst.
Lubeck, 1859, 4 schilling, block of 6	G. B. Duerst.
United States, 1869, 15 cents, two varieties and reprint	W. W. Munn.
Victoria, 1850, 2d., 3 varieties.	W. D. Beckton.
Spain, 1850, 6 cuartos, block of 56	W. D. Beckton.
Do. 1857, 4 cuartos, block of 199	W. D. Beckton.
Do. 1857, 4 cuartos, sheet of 200, worn plate	W. D. Beckton.
Do. Don Carlos, 16 maravedis, sheet of 100	W. D. Beckton.

THE inaugural meeting of the fifth session was held at the Blackfriars Hotel, on Friday, September 27th, the President in the chair. There was a large gathering of members and visitors. In a short address, the President said the Society was again indebted to the kindness of Mr. T. Ridpath for the preparation of the photographic slides to be shewn at the third lantern exhibition. In referring to the syllabus, the Chairman drew attention to the fact that the Society's meetings would be held every Friday during the session, the alternate nights being devoted to the exhibition of stamps and discussions. It was also announced that the rules of the new Stamp Exchange for members were printed, and the first packet would start on 1st October. The following programme was gone through :

The exhibition was followed with close interest by all present ; the only regret expressed being that it was impossible to carry away all the information given. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ridpath for his valuable services.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

25, ANN STREET, ROOM 1.

President—WILLIAM THORNE.*Vice-President*—WILLIAM HERRICK.*Secretary*—FREDERICK A. NAST.*Treasurer*—HENRY CLOTZ.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Society was held in its rooms, October 21st. The Vice-President, Mr. Herrick, in the chair.

The Secretary reported the gift from Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Co. of a copy of their new catalogue, for which acknowledgement had been made by the Secretary.

Mr. Albrecht presented the Society with his priced Catalogue, auctions twenty-one to twenty-nine inclusive, which the Secretary was instructed to acknowledge with thanks.

In accordance with the instructions of the Society at the June meeting, the Secretary addressed the following letter to the Postmaster-General, Washington, D.C. :

"DEAR SIR,—At a late meeting of The Philatelic Society, New York, the following resolution was passed unanimously :

"Whereas, there is a patriotic desire on the part of American stamp collectors to possess sets of all stamps issued by our Government in unused form, especially the new series of Postage Due stamps.

"Whereas, there seems to be no valid reason why these stamps should not be sold at face value by the Post Office Department; as they eventually all pass into the hands of the public, and,

"Whereas, the sale of these Postage Due stamps would afford a very considerable source of revenue to the Government; therefore, be it

"Resolved, by The Philatelic Society, New York, that the Postmaster-General be respectfully requested to carefully consider the advisability of putting the same on sale.

"The Philatelic Society hopes you will be able to see your way clear to ordering the sale of these stamps at an early date.

"Yours truly,

(Signed) "F. A. NAST, *Secretary*."

To which the following reply was received :

"SIR,—Yours of the 20th inst., addressed to the Postmaster-General, has been referred to this office. In reply, I have to say that the department has no authority to sell Postage Due stamps directly to the public, the manner in which they are to be used being fixed by law.

"Yours very respectfully,

(Signed) "KERR CRAIG,

"Third Assistant Postmaster-General."

Upon motion, the matter was laid on the table for future action.

In accordance with the instructions of the Society, the Secretary addressed the following letter to the National Philatelic Society :

"GENTLEMEN,—Your communication of June 14th, in reference to a representative Committee to act on behalf of American Philatelists, in the matter of Speculative Stamps, I take pleasure in notifying you that at the last meeting of The Philatelic Society, New York, the following resolution was passed by an unanimous vote :

"Resolved, That The Philatelic Society, New York, endorse the action of the National Philatelic Society, and await the result of the Committee's action to see if there is a necessity of appointing a permanent Committee of The Philatelic Society, New York, to examine the status of future issues.

"Yours truly,

(Signed) "F. A. NAST, *Secretary*."

The Committee met on July 17th at 1-30 p.m., at the Society's rooms, and made the following report to the Society :

"Organized by the election of Mr. Wm. Horrick as President, and Mr. Jos. S. Rich as Secretary.

"Members of the Committee present, Messrs. Andreini, Bogert, Calman, Herrick, Hunter, Rich, and Scott.

"It was moved by Mr. Scott, and seconded by Mr. Calman, that this Committee appoint a Subcommittee to draw up resolutions, showing the disadvantage of issuing stamps of a speculative nature, to be printed in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese, and to be sent to all postal administrations. The motion was unanimously carried, and the Chair appointed Messrs. Andreini, Scott, and Calman, as this Subcommittee.

"It was moved by Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Andreini, and carried, that it is the sense of this Committee that all commemorative stamps which are issued for use for a limited time only, should be refused by collectors.

"It was moved by Mr. Calman, and seconded by Mr. Andreini, that this Committee discourage the collecting of British, North Borneo, and Labuan stamps of the last issue, as we are informed that they are not regularly sold at the countries they represent.

"It was moved by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Rich, and carried, that the next meeting of this Committee be subject to the call of the Chairman.

(Signed) "Jos. S. RICH, *Secretary*."

Under date of October 1st, the Committee made a further report of a letter which had been prepared in English, German, and Spanish, and copies of said letter have been delivered to the Society, and the letter has already been published in a large number of Philatelic journals.

Mr. P. F. Brunner, 27, West 58th Street, New York City, having received the unanimous endorsement of the Governing Committee, was proposed for election, and duly elected a member of the Society.

On motion of Mr. Chas. Gregory, seconded by Mr. J. W. Scott, notice was given of the intention to alter the Statutes, article III. paragraph 1, to be amended to read as follows:—"The names of candidates for admission received by the Governing Committee for approval, if approved by all the members of the Governing Committee who can be reached by the Secretary (not less than seven (7) of the Committee voting), shall be posted."

As many Philatelists, not members of the Society, desire to avail themselves of the proposed new exchange system, it was moved by Mr. Gregory, seconded by Mr. Herrick: Resolved, that it is the sense of

this meeting that an auxiliary membership be formed in the Society, and that an exchange department be established. This matter to be the special order of business for the next meeting of the Society, with power to act thereon. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Scott, not having had time to complete the reference list of U.S. stamps, postponed the reading of any portion of the same until the November meeting of the Society, which will be held Nov. 18th.

Mr. Andreini promised to read a paper on plate No. collecting, at the December meeting of the Society.

Mr. Gregory exhibited a Queretaro, 3 reales, 1867, Provisional of the State of Queretaro, on original letter.

Mr. Leyman exhibited a beautiful strip of unused 10 cts. Confederate, with line all around.

Mr. Scott exhibited a unique copy of the 1847 U.S. 5 cts., on blue laid batonne paper, also a 10 cts. green U.S. periodical, first issue, with white border. Many other scarce and valuable stamps were exhibited, and, after a general and informal discussion, the Society adjourned at 10.30 p.m.

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT. Vice-President—R. TYETH STEVENS.
Exchange Secretary—H. TUCKER, JUN. Assistant Exchange Sec.—E. MILLMAN.
Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—A. LEVY.
Committee—
J. MILTON. | E. MILLMAN. | W. E. HARVEY. | W. J. W. MILLER.

THE first ordinary meeting of the fifth session was held at 9a Princess Square, on Wednesday, October 23rd, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

Present—the Vice-President in the chair; Messrs. Stevens, Tucker, Milton, Miller, Harvey, Stockdale, Buchan, Mayne, Honeysett, and Levy.

Votes of thanks were passed to Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, and L'Estrange Ewen, for copies of their priced catalogue presented to the society; to the Birmingham Philatelic Society for their Annual Report, and to Mr. Nunn (Bury St. Edmunds) for the *Stamp Collectors Journal*. The continued receipt of the *Stamp News*, the *Philatelic Record*, and the *Philatelic Chronicle*, was also noted.

Mr. Tucker having notified that, through pressure of other duties, he would be unable to carry out the requirements of the Exchange Branch during the ensuing few

months, Mr. E. Millman (26, Grenville Road, Plymouth) was unanimously elected Assistant Exchange Secretary, to whom corresponding members and others are requested to send communications, referring to the Exchange Branch, until further notice. The following members promised to read papers during the session—

The Vice-President: "Three Weeks' Stamp-Hunting on the Continent."

Capt. Stockdale: "Ceylon and Greece."

Mr. Miller: "Greece."

The Hon. Sec.: "West Indies."

Messrs. Milton and Mayne also promised to assist.

Displays of the stamps illustrating the subjects of the papers, will be held on the evenings when they are read. It was resolved to join the Stamp Exchange Protection Society. ASHER LEVY, Hon. Sec.

190, UNION STREET, PLYMOUTH.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.*

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

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"GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES."

DEAR SIR,—There is a jarring line in your journal which always strikes me as inaccurate. I refer to the heading used every month, "Great Britain and Colonies," in the *New Issues* section. India is not a colony. I venture to suggest the designation, "The United Kingdom, India, and Colonies," as a more suitable one for adoption; or, better still, that of "The United Kingdom, India, Colonies, and Dependencies," to be strictly accurate.

I would also beg permission to point out that the term "Great Britain," used in most philatelic journals, albums, and catalogues, is scarcely a correct one. Ireland is not Great Britain. I would suggest the adoption of the designation, "The United Kingdom," instead. In the old days, when strict alphabetical order was insisted on in albums, collectors probably shrank from the idea of consigning their British stamps to the fag-end of Europe in their books. Now that the abolition of the alphabetical is, happily, being more and more indulged in by album makers, there is no reason why the old insufficient name of Great Britain should not give way to the comprehensively-correct one, "The United Kingdom." Philatelists should, above all people, be correct in their geographical expressions.

Yours faithfully,

WILMOT CORFIELD.

15, CHOWINGHEE, CALCUTTA, 21st October, 1895.

[Our correspondent's contentions are not without force; but we do not like the suggested alterations, and should be pleased to receive any further suggestions hereon. "The British Empire" would, perhaps, be a more suitable generic title.—ED.]

AN APPEAL.

DEAR SIR,—Now that the Philatelic Auctions are in full swing, will you kindly allow me a small space in your valuable paper to ventilate a grievance?

I note that in nearly all catalogues, varieties of the earlier issues of Nevis, Mauritius, Switzerland, and others, are offered for sale without any notification as to their number on plate. This fact renders it most difficult for advanced collectors to bid, unless the stamps are carefully examined before the sale, and renders it impossible for those living at a distance, or abroad.

An advanced collector plating a stamp, and wanting only one or two varieties to complete it, is unwilling to offer the high prices now attained, when it is at least 4 to 1 against his obtaining the variety desired, and he would willingly bid considerably higher to secure the type to complete the plate. If auctioneers would plate these varieties in their catalogues, it would be of great help to their customers living at a distance, and I feel confident that they would be amply recompensed for their trouble.

I remain, yours sincerely,

R. STANLEY TAYLOR, M.D.

LAUSANNE, October 21st, 1895.

[We would strongly support the reasonable plea of Dr. Stanley Taylor, feeling assured that the proper "plating" of all type varieties would be alike in the best interests both of vendors and purchasers.—ED.]



The Market.

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

THE collection of Mr. W. J. Bingle, and other lots from private sources, occupied two days, on October 15th and 16th. A total of £749 odd was realised on some 420 lots. Among the best prices were:—

France, first issue, 1 franc, dark orange, unused	£	s.	d.
Oldenburg, second issue, 3 gros., black on green	5	5	0
Sicily, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 50 grani (8)	6	10	0
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf.	4	0	0
Mauritius, postpaid, 1d., red on white paper, pair on piece of original Ditto, ditto, early state of plate, used with a 2d. blue, medium state	20	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d., blue on bluish	9	5	0
British Columbia, 25 cts., yellow, perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, unused strip of 3	37	10	0
Canada, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., green, imperf., unused (mended)	9	5	0
Ditto, 10d., blue, imperf., unused (no gum)	4	4	0
New Brunswick, 1s., mauve, unused (creased)	4	0	0
United States, 1869, 90 cts., unused, no grille	13	10	0
Ditto, ditto, Columbus, complete set of 16, unused	5	0	0
Barbadoes, 1d., imperf., blue on white, pair	4	12	6
Nevis, litho, 6d., grey, unused (no gum)	2	15	0
St. Kitts, CA, 6d., grey-brown, unused	11	0	0
Trinidad, 1d., red on white, imperf., unused	2	12	0
Trinidad, litho, 1d., grey-blue	3	5	0
Antioquia, 1868, 5 cts., green	2	4	0
Buenos Ayres, steamship, 3 pesos, green	11	5	0
Columbia, 1863, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cts., black (a pair), and a 5 ct. yellow, used together	4	6	0
Ditto, 1863, 50 cts., red, error	3	10	0
Dominican Republic, 1862, 1 real, green, penmarked	15	10	0
New South Wales, laureated, 8d., orange	6	6	0
New Zealand, 1d., red on blue paper, unused	3	7	6
Victoria, first issue, 2d., grey-lilac, fine background	2	2	0
The sale on Nov. 4th and 5th included—	3	12	6
Gibraltar, first issue, 1s., unused	2	6	0
Great Britain, £5, postally used	2	14	0
Ditto, "I.R. Official," 10s., blue	2	10	0
Switzerland, Basle, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ rap. (creased)	3	0	0
Ditto, Vaud, 4 cts.	11	0	0
India, 1856, 2 as., green, unused	2	4	0
N.S.W., Sydney, 1d., red with clouds, pair	4	4	0

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, AND COOPER.

The sale on October 24th and 25th included some gems of the first water, among which was one of the finest copies of St. Vincent, 5s., wmk. star, yet offered for sale. The Post Paid Mauritius established another record for single specimens, and were exceedingly fine. We are glad to see that good prices were by no means lacking, as the following quotations will amply prove:

Mauritius post paid, 1d., vermilion on bluish, earliest state of plate	£	s.	d.
Ditto, 2d., blue, unused, earliest possible state of plate	11	0	0
Ditto, large fillet, 2d., blue, vertical pair on original envelopes	140	0	0
British Columbia, \$1, green	50	0	0
Canada, 12d., black on laid, slightly torn	3	0	0
New Brunswick, 6d., yellow	27	0	0
Ditto, ditto	3	10	0
Ditto, 1s., violet	3	12	0
Newfoundland, 4d., carmine-red	18	10	0
Ditto, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., carmine-red, unused	5	0	0
Ditto, 1s., carmine-red (mended)	6	0	0
Nova Scotia, 1d., red-brown, horizontal pair	9	0	0
Ditto, 1s., mauve	3	10	0
British Guiana, 1851, 1c., black on magenta	21	0	0
Ditto, 1851, 4c., black on blue	5	0	0
British Honduras, Cr. CA, 6d., yellow, and 1s., grey, unused (2)	3	12	6
St. Lucia, 1s., black and orange	4	10	0
St. Vincent, 4d., yellow, unused	3	5	0
Ditto, 1s., blue, unused	3	5	0
Ditto, wmk. star, perf. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$, 4d., dark-blue, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, wmk. Star, 1s. rose-red, unused	7	7	0
Ditto, wmk. Star, 5s., rose-red, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, Provisional 1d. in red on half a 6d. blue-green, unused	16	0	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s.	3	10	0
Ditto, Cr. CA, 4d. red-brown, unused	11	11	0
Tobago, Cr. CA, 6d. ochre, unused	6	6	0
Turks Islands, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 1s., prune	13	13	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., crimson, single line border, unused	3	3	0
New South Wales, Laureated, 1d., carmine, no leaves to right of South, unused	3	3	0
Ditto 1854-56, 5d., green, imperf. unused	6	15	0
Victoria, 1850, 2d., lilac, fine background	3	3	0
Ditto, 5s., blue and yellow	5	0	0
Western Australia, 2d., brown on red	4	0	0
	6	0	0

SOME 478 lots came under the hammer at the sale on November 12th and 13th, 163 of which comprised Great Britain stamps, the duplicate portion of the superb collection of Mr. West. Purchasers for these were not lacking, and *some* good prices were obtained. A fine copy of the "V.R.", with *red cancellation*, on original, was cheap at £12. So large a collection of unused specimens does not frequently appear for sale. The best prices realised were:—

GREAT BRITAIN.		£	s.	d.
½d., red, Plate 9, unused		2	6	0
1d., black, "V.R.", unused		11	11	0
1d., black, "V.R.", <i>red cancellation</i>		12	0	0
Reprint, 1d., black (1864), wmk				
Large Crown inv., pair unused		3	5	0
1840, 2d., blue, no lines, unused		2	16	0
2½d., rose, wmk. "Orb," Plate 3,				
unused		3	10	0
2½d., rose, Plates 4-17, all unused (14)		5	0	0
1854, 6d., octagonal, unused		3	3	0
9d., straw, Plate 3 (hair lines),				
damaged		5	0	0
1874, 6d., buff, Pl. 13, wmk. Spray (!)		2	0	0
2s., brown, unused		5	10	0
1883, £5, orange		2	17	6
"I. R. OFFICIAL," 5s., carmine		3	5	0
Ditto, 10s., blue		3	15	0
Ditto, £1, green, vertical pair		12	0	0
Ditto, ditto, single copy		5	15	0

FOREIGN.

Zululand, 5s. surch. on Gt. Britain,				
unused		3	0	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., vermilion,				
earliest state of Plate		14	0	0
Mauritius, Large Fillet, 2d., blue		12	0	0
British Colombia, perf. 12½, 10 c.,				
blue and pink		2	4	0
United States, Columbus issue,				
complete, unused		4	8	0
Do., 1856, 90 c., blue, unused		3	0	0
Do., 1894, issue complete, unused		2	7	6
Do., Justice, 90 c., unused		5	12	6
Mexico, 1864 (Eagle), 3 c., brown,				
with surcharge, unused		3	10	0
Brazil, slanting figures, 600 reis		3	10	0
Buenos Ayres, 3 pesos, green		2	15	0
Peru, medio peso, yellow		2	2	0
British Honduras, wmk. Cr. CC,				
perf. 14, 6d., rose, unused		2	12	6
Virgin Islands, 1s., crimson, single-				
line border		3	10	0
Victoria, 6d., orange, beaded oval		4	12	6
Ceylon, 8d., brown, imperf. (fair)		6	10	0
Ditto, 2s., blue, ditto		5	0	0
Bahamas, 1d., lake, imperf.		3	10	0
Switzerland, Neuchatel, 5 c., red				
and black, unused		9	5	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

At the sale held on Oct. 24th, we noted:

Zululand, 5s., on Great Britain	3	3	0
We also note:			
India, Service Postage, long rect,			
2 annas	2	10	0

Portuguese Indies, 6r. in black, on
200r. yellow, on original. . . 7 7 0

The sale on November 11th (64th) included, among other desirable lots,

Victoria, 4d., beaded oval, wmk. 4			
rouletted	2	12	6
Zululand, 5d., on Great Britain,			
block of six, unused	2	2	0
Zululand, 9d., on Great Britain,			
block of six, unused	2	6	0
Tasmania, first issue, 4d., orange,			
unused	2	10	0
Victoria, first issue, 2d., coarse			
background, fine border, un-			
used	2	15	0
Victoria, first issue, 2d., fine back-			
ground and border, on original	3	3	0
Western Australia, first issue, 2d.,			
on original	2	10	0
New Brunswick, half of 6d., used			
as 3d. on entire original	2	15	0
Nova Scotia, half of 3d. and a 6d.,			
used as 7½d., on original	2	6	0
Nevis, CA, 1s., deep violet, unused	2	12	6
Newfoundland, 4d., orange-ver-			
milion, on original	3	0	0

MESSRS. R. F. ALBRECHT & Co.
(New York.)

We have received a priced catalogue of a good sale held by the above firm on October 29th and 30th. We quote a few of the most interesting lots sold, and for convenience have counted \$5 as = £1.

United States, 1851, 5c., imperf.			
unused	8	0	0
Ditto, 5c., brown, strip of 3	6	0	0
Ditto, 1857-60, 90c., blue, unused	6	0	0
Ditto, 1869, 30c., unused	2	17	0
Ditto, 1869, 90c.	2	16	0
Ditto, ditto	2	19	0
Ditto, Justice, 90c., unused	7	0	0
British Guiana, 1876, 96c., bistre,			
unused	4	0	0
Canada, 7½d., green, imperf.	4	12	0
Dominica, Cr. CA, 1s., lake, unused	3	16	0
Gibraltar, first issue, 1s., unused	2	14	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, used	3	3	0
Hamburg, 1859, 9sch., yellow, imp.	3	0	0
Jamaica, Cr. CA, 1883, 1d., blue,			
block of 12, unused	3	12	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 2d., carmine,			
block of 9, unused	6	15	0
Mauritius Post Paid, 1d., red on			
bluish, pair, medium plate	10	0	0
Montserrat, 4d., blue, CA (!)	6	2	0
Nevis, first issue, 6d., grey, greyish			
paper, unused	4	0	0
Ditto, 1867, 1s., blue-green, unused	6	6	0
New Brunswick, 1s., bright violet	21	12	0
Ditto, 1s., mauve	18	16	0
St. Lucia, CA, 1s., orange, unused	5	12	0
Saxony, 3 pf., red, penmarked	5	0	0
Naples, ½ tornese, cross	5	0	0
Virgin Islands, 1887, 4d. on 1s., car-			
mine, entire sheet of 20 stamps	32	0	0
Wurtemberg, 1866, 18 kr., orange,			
unused, rouletted	3	12	0

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A Word—in Season.

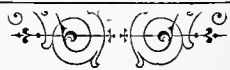


Y the time that these lines are in our readers' hands, the kindly and genial associations of the greatest of all Christian festivals will be full upon us all; and it may seem, therefore, a fitting time to speak "the seasonable word," in the hope that some softening influence on the more rugged phases of Philatelic life may be exercised. There is, perhaps, no pursuit in which the rigid line of honour and spotless integrity is more difficult to trace than in Philately. The minute variation on which occasionally enormous differences of value depend, the extreme difficulty frequently in separating the real thing from the reprint or the imitation, the temptation, with the aid of the literally *fin de siècle* marvellous restorative power, of concealing any defects, and of apparently restoring a specimen to pristine condition, the knowledge that abnormal prices realized at auction for abnormal specimens are not necessarily the true gauge of value, and, indeed, a hundred other kindred "incidents of the campaign," all tend to make the line of absolute probity in stamp-dealing transactions as difficult of attainment, as it is honourable to those who really succeed. It is, indeed, a credit to the men financially interested in the stamp world, that in this country, on the Continent, in America, and elsewhere, there are very many whose transactions are as large as they are untainted in their composition. The question of prices paid or received is, naturally, outside our province—it is the law of supply and demand—nor can our code of ethics be violated except by the making of false statements in either case.

The dangers confronting Philately have been conspicuously present of late, and, as in the face of a common enemy, minor difficulties are sunk, we are constrained to ask if it is not wiser to sink all personal animosities, all unfounded imputations of motives, to avoid personalities in journalism, to sink the man, and write of the stamp, to endeavour to differ with courtesy, and not to be chary of praise for real Philatelic work from any quarter whatever.

It is obvious that Philately can be no more free from black sheep, or shady characters, than any other *métier*; and we have shewn previously, by its very nature, that it is a pursuit in which the seamy side of humanity has a wide field. The very difficulties of the position should, however, give patience to those who watch over our Philatelic morals. Every chance should be given to those who err for the first time, or through ignorance, or even carelessness, and we are convinced that, as in ordinary criminal cases, a discriminating leniency, and moderation-tempered justice, may, in the earlier stages of deviation from the straight path, prevent a further and worse lapse on the part of the offender. These are not mere platitudes, as we could, from a long personal experience—more thickly strewn of late—copiously illustrate our meaning by actual examples and solid facts.

The more pleasing side of the picture is afforded by the acquaintanceships and friendships that are the inevitable outcome of stamp-collecting, and which are happily confined neither to buyer nor seller, nor race nor clime. It has always been a characteristic of stamp-collecting that it knows no distinction of nationality, and that a Philatelist—dealer or collector—has almost invariably a *pied à terre* in every civilized country. We, in common with many other friends, have found this the case, and have to thank Philately for many of our brightest associations and warmest friends. In olden days, the pursuit was called "Foreign Stamp Collecting." The first word has, perforce, died a natural death. In stamps, or stamp adherents, there are no "foreigners"—all is cosmopolitan, and it is frequently the case that the article, and those who buy and sell them, are held in greater esteem abroad than at home. We are sure that neither in this country nor abroad is there any distinction—except in the more pleasing sense of the word—ascribed to any man of any nationality. A man in this country, as doubtless in most others, is what he makes himself. Undeviating rectitude of principle, habits of industry—confined to his own business—the endeavour to be civil to all men, and such a charitable and kindly view of men and things as is enjoined by the Religion whose great festival we are now celebrating, will not fail to make a man popular and respected in any civilized community.



Notes on Switzerland and the Cantonal Stamps.

A PAPER READ BEFORE THE BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

By OTTO PFENNINGER.

(Continued from page 285.)

B. HISTORIC : CANTONAL.

B. I. ZURICH.



FTER this Federal and historical introduction, I will now draw your attention to the Cantonal decrees, and explain them, as far as lies in my power.

Relating to the introduction of the Cantonal postage stamps, I will commence with Zurich, which Canton was the first to introduce them; the only decree, to my knowledge, was published by Mr. Reuterskiöld in the *Schweiz Briefmarken Journal*, 1890.

"The Postal Department, etc., decrees with the Authorization of the Council.

"(1) On and after March, 1843, the distance-tariff for the expedition of home letters in the Canton of Zurich will expire, and will be replaced by a fixed Tax of 6 Rappen for the whole Canton, for single letters, that is, weighing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce; no extra charge for carriage shall be levied.

"(2) Registered letters, etc.

"(3) A local post will be established, with a local Tax of 4 Rappen for each letter weighing less than $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

"(4) The Postal Administrations are requested to issue Postage-stamps of 4 Rappen for the Local post, and 6 Rappen for the Cantonal post.

"(5) The use of those stamps, etc.

"Zurich, February 25th, 1843.

"POSTAL DIRECTORS."

In this decree we notice with surprise that the value is given in rappen, when we remember Zurich did not coin the old francs. On the other hand, the Cantonal money was accepted as follows: 1 Zurich florin as 16 batzen, 5 schillings as 2 batzen, 1 schilling or 12 heller as 4 rappen, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling or 18 heller as 6 rappen. We see, by this, the old tolerated franc system was seemingly acknowledged by the Cantonal Postal Authorities, a sign that as early as 1843 efforts were being made with a view to centralization.

I have found another explanatory publication in Deyhles' *Schweiz Briefmarken Journal*, 1881, under the title:

"Zurich Postage Stamps of 1843 without red lines.

"The well-known Zurich postage-stamps—4 and 6 rappen—were made on ordinary paper in large quantities, 100 on a sheet, that is ten each way, and were

then locked in a safe with the original plates. When the Post-office authority required postage stamps, they took the requisite quantity under supervision from the safe.

"The postage stamps were then printed over with the familiar horizontal or vertical red lines, and after they had been gummed, were ready for circulation.

"One often sees Zurich stamps which at first sight appear without red lines, but on looking closer it is to be found they are only lightly printed or have faded.

"A short time ago a used Zurich 6 came before my notice, on which the lines were altogether missing. From this we can conclude that one or several sheets came in circulation by mistake without the red control mark. Unused and ungummed are also to be met with, but in such small quantities that they can be very easily counted."

The Zurich stamps were first circulated in the beginning of March, 1843. The earliest date known is March 12th, 1843; the latest March 11th, 1850.

When the entire Post, according to the decision of the Federal Assembly of November 28th, 1848, was taken over by the Federation on January 1st, 1849, Zurich stamps ceased to be manufactured, most likely being used up to June, 1849, and their use was tolerated even later. All Zurich stamps were obliterated with a rosette, similar to the early English ones, there being only one known specimen stamped with P.P. (which occurred during the Federal time).

The obliteration was black for the country and red for the town, there being a very few examples known stamped with blue, which must have occurred after January, 1849, and is therefore a Federal obliteration.

The decision of the Federal Assembly concerning the taking over of the Post for the benefit of the Federation, Jan. 1st, 1849, says as follows:—

"§ 1. On and after Jan. 1st, 1849, the Post in all Switzerland will be taken in charge by the Federation. § 2. The existing lawful and customary installations in the Cantonal Postal Administrations shall remain until the definite regulations of the Postal Department come in force."

This indicates the remaining in use of the Zurich stamps until the declaring in force of the first Swiss law relating to postal rates, and the dividing into 11 postal-districts, both of which took place on June 15th, 1849. This latter date seems to have caused the so-called Winterthur stamp to be made for the Swiss Postal District VIII.—Zurich.

This stamp of this period of transition probably came into use after 26th October, 1849, when appointments for the offices were made, and in the meantime Zurich people were obliged to do without stamps; that is, the letters when enfranchised had the word "Franco" either written or printed on the address side, and the amount paid had to be written in red ink or pencil on the opposite side.

From a description given in the *Schweiz Briefmarken Journal*, 1892, of a block of 33 ungummed stamps of the Postal District VIII., we find that a complete sheet of these stamps consisted of not more than 50 pieces. This Federal District stamp remained in use until the regular issue of the 2½ rpp. Swiss stamp came into circulation, and even then they were not abolished; that is, coinciding with the calling in of all the 2½ rpp. on Dec. 31st, 1851.

The latest date, to my knowledge, of this postage stamp on letter bears the obliteration, April 2nd, 1850.

B. II. GENEVA.

With reference to the postage stamps of Geneva, I will first give you an article published in the *Schweiz Briefmarken Journal*, 1882.

"In the spring of 1843, on May 22nd, Monsieur M. Condolle, in the Grand-Council of the Canton of Geneva, proposed the issue of postage stamps for the franking of letters, referring also to the Canton of Zurich, where postage stamps were already in use; this proposal was considered important, and was given to the Finance Department for due consideration, and it was determined on June 19th to issue postage stamps, or stamped envelopes, having seen by the example of Zurich and England, the benefit of this practical institution.

"The Finance Department informed the public, through their official Journal (Sept., 1843) that, in accordance with the decision of the Grand Council of the 13th day of the same month, they had prepared postage stamps which were to be used for the franking of letters in the Canton, and which represented the two Cantonal postage rates, these stamps being sold at the Post offices of Geneva and Carouge, the sheet of 50 double Genevas at 5 francs, 5 double Genevas at 50 ctms., the single stamp at 5 ctms.

"The joint-stamp, commonly called double-Geneva, was used for the franking of letters under one ounce, from one parish of the Canton to another.

"A single stamp, so-called Geneva cut-size, was used for the franking of letters within the Postal-delivery District (*Aufgabe-Ort*).

"If not less than 20 letters were posted for delivery in the Canton, an allowance was made of half the postal rate.

"Thus, from the above, it will be seen the first Geneva stamps came into circulation Oct. 1st, 1843. At the same time, permission was also given to divide them into two stamps. The aforesaid details explain the inscriptions, 'Post local' in the interior of each half, and 'Post Cantonal, 10 ctms.' across the top of the whole stamp; it is, therefore, easy to understand why so few double-Genevas are met with.

"It will be interesting to know how many of these stamps were printed. In the Finance Archive I found a bill from Lithographer Schmid, dated November 7th, 1843, which when translated is as follows—

"For making the original stone plate containing 200 small stamps			
for the enfranchisement of letters	.	.	Fcs. 75.
First supply of 100 sheets printed on green paper, and gummed			
on the back	.	.	„ 12.
Second supply of 500 sheets as above	.	.	„ 45.'

"As I was unable to find another bill, and the amount made was more than enough for that time, we conclude there were not more than 600 sheets of 100 double-Genevas = 60,000 double Genevas (5 × 5). How many of these were cut in half it is impossible to say.

"The circumstance that these small pieces of paper were generally destroyed, because no value was attached to them, as well as the halving, is, doubtless, the cause that so few of the double-Genevas remain extant at the present time.

"On April 1st, 1845, the Finance Department published in the *Federal* that from the said date, in accordance with the decision of the Grand Council of March 14th, the letter tax in the various parishes of the Canton is fixed as follows—

“A. Letters to be delivered in the same parish as posted, and from one parish to another, 5 ctms. for each letter not weighing more than one ounce, 10 ctms. for each letter weighing over an ounce, but not more than three ounces. For each letter over three ounces 10 ctms. for the first three ounces, and 15 ctms. for each additional ounce.

“B. On letters coming from the exterior of the Canton, and directed for any other parish but Geneva and Carouge, a sur-tax of 5 ctms. will be made irrespective of weight. The 5 ctms. stamp for use in the interior of the Canton will be sold at the Post-offices for 4 ctms.’

“Does it not seem strange that the postal authorities should sell a postage stamp at 4 ctms., while the stamp itself is plainly marked 5 ctms.? Why did they not logically manufacture a stamp marked with its real value instead of an imaginary one?

“The same lithographer was ordered to make a new stamp, which is known to-day as the Geneva small Eagle; also to supply the necessary quantity. The bill of the 22nd June, 1845, reads thus [Observation from O. Pf.—were only issued Jan. 1846]:

“For 1200 sheets of 100 stamps each, drawing of the Plate,
printing on green paper and gumming Fcs. 132.’

“According to this, 120,000 so-called small Geneva Eagles were manufactured.

“For the convenience of the corresponding public, the Finance Department, Feb. 27th, 1846, caused envelopes with the stamp printed on to be made, in the following large (14 × 11 ctms.), middle (14 × 7½ ctms.), and small (14 × 5½ ctms.) sizes. The above were to be obtained at the Post-offices, and of Monsieur Wessel, Grand Rue, at 5 ctms. singly, and 50 ctms. for a packet containing ten. At the same places postage stamps were sold singly at 4 ctms., and a row of ten for 40 ctms.

“The bill of March 17th, 1846, reads thus—

“40,000 envelopes for franking, printed, 10,000 at Fcs. 50. . . . Fcs. 200.’

“I am unable to say in what quantities the different sizes were printed.

“Now follows the 5 ctms. stamp, black impression, on light green paper, which differs in the drawing from the one of April 1st, 1845, and is the so-called Geneva light green ‘large Eagle.’ I have been unable to find any official paper or bill concerning this stamp.

“The 1st March, 1847, may be considered as the date of issue; certainly not later than March 3rd. [Observ. by O. Pf.—earliest date known January 5th, 1847; latest October 11th, 1849, and March 29th, 1850.] A stamp was published with the same design, but on dark green paper, whose issue probably coincides with the above-named one.

“An invoice, dated January 5th, 1849, says:

“500 sheets of 100 stamps on green paper, printed and gummed.

Also for half a ream of paper Fcs. 45.’

“According to this, the amount is 50,000 stamps. [Observ. by O. Pf.—earliest date known November 16th, 1848; latest March 20th, 1850.]

“I have in my possession the top part of one of these sheets, containing 30 stamps, with the following heading:

“Postage stamp for letters under one ounce, for use in the Canton of Geneva, To enfranchise a letter the shields must be cut off and stuck on the address side of the envelope. A single shield is sufficient to enfranchise a letter addressed from one parish in the Canton to another.—Lith: SCHMID, Geneva.’

"Concerning the stamp with green printing on white paper, which is frequently found cut out and used on envelopes, I do not think it is the outcome of a special issue. The similarity between the paper of this stamp and the envelope of 1846, as also the ease with which the stamp could be manipulated, suggest to me that the envelope was utilised at the last moment by cutting out the stamp as such, after the posts had been declared Federal by the decree of June 4th, 1849.

"These used fragments from the envelope are, however, quite entitled to be considered as a special stamp. They were principally in circulation in the years 1850-51, even as late as the year 1852, but we may take the end of 1849 as the date of emission. [Observ. by O. Pf.—earliest date May 26th and August 28th, 1849.]

"The stamps sold realized the following amounts :

1843, for three months	.	.	.	fcs. 494.00 cts.
1844	.	.	.	„ 1566.50 „
1845	.	.	.	„ 2768.40 „
1846	.	.	.	„ 2798.00 „
1848	.	.	.	about „ 3000.00 „

"The Post became Federal on June 4th, 1849. [O. Pf.—1 Jan., 1849.]

"The postal administration moved in the year 1866 from the Place Belair to the building it occupies at the present day. A quantity of stamps and envelopes were found at the time and destroyed."—(E. SAMSON, 1882.)

I have also found another article by Ad. Schulze, in the *Schweiz Briefmarken Zeitung*, 1882, referring to the light green Geneva, and of which I append an abstract :

"The so-called white Geneva, which was in circulation, is not a regular stamp prepared beforehand, but is only an accommodation, or interim stamp, which was made use of in the absence of other stamps, and for this purpose large remnants of Geneva-envelopes were employed. This stamp also came into use without any official announcement, scarcely earlier than October, 1849.

"The Canton of Geneva, with its French money-system, was in some ways isolated in comparison with the other Cantons, with their new-dollar and florin-systems.

"In the public announcement for Geneva, June, 1849, of the new postal rates for October 1st, 1849, is the following conditional clause : 'The money-change of these postal rates for the Canton of Geneva is 70 old rappen to one franc French.'

"In a place like Geneva, with such an extensive cantonal traffic, regulations of this character could not easily be carried out in the delivery of single letters.

"To this circumstance may be attributed the continuance of the Geneva post for the moment, and on account of the easier traffic, not only were the 5 ctm. stamps from the Geneva envelopes made use of, but also the later issues of the local stamps in Geneva-valuta, until the new Swiss money was introduced in 1852. [Observ. by O. Pf.—The new Federal money was introduced in Geneva and Vaud, Oct. 1st, 1851.] These local stamps came into use—End of 1849, the 4 ctm. ; beginning 1850, the 5 ctm. ; and, finally, the 5 ctm. in Aug. 1851. This latter have always been wrongly called Vaud and Neuchâtel, which absolutely false name is, unfortunately, still continued.

"That, in spite of the inscription 'Poste locale,' these were not local, but real Cantonal stamps, is proved not only by letters which are franked with such stamps, but also confirmed by a postal publication of Sept. 23rd, 1850, caused by the intro-

duction of the Federal stamps (Rayons). [Observ. by O. Pf.—Stamps of the Swiss postal district I. is the right name, and the announcement says also Federal Post.]

"This Act reads thus :

"FEDERAL POSTAL ADMINISTRATION.

"From the 1st Oct. next, 1850, the administration shall sell at the local post-offices stamps for the franking of letters intended for Switzerland only, for the first radius, blue stamps, at 5 rappen ; for the second radius, yellow stamps, at 10 rappen ; for the third and fourth radius, also for letters weighing more than half-an-ounce, sufficient stamps for the value of the franking must be affixed. Stamps on letters for foreign countries are not accepted as of any value. Further, the so-called local stamps can only be employed for the Canton of Geneva, with the exception of the parish of Céligny.' [Observ. by O. Pf.—The parish of Céligny is a part of the Canton of Geneva, situated in the Canton of Vaud, and surrounded by the latter ; it seems also, contrary to the above, that this rule was not fully carried out, as I have received letters franked with these stamps addressed to Céligny.]

"The stock of dark green 5 ctm. had been exhausted, and it was not found necessary to issue new ones. This is the reason why Geneva made use of the cut envelope stamp (the provisional stamp, 5 ctm., green on white), and the way they managed was as follows :—The back of the envelope and the flap was slit off with a knife or paper knife, the back of the impressed stamp was then gummed, and the rest of the paper was cut off with scissors. This is the reason these stamps have a rough edge on the top and right side, while the bottom and the left side are smooth. It should, therefore, be urged upon collectors that they should not cut the edges, but keep them in their original state. Without this stated characteristic, the stamp loses its guarantee of official derivation and, at the same time, its value. These stamps are only of philatelic value when used, as when unused anyone can cut them out of envelopes, and it is then impossible to prove their origin. Let me draw your attention to the obliteration of these stamps, a valuable means in detecting forgeries, which up to the present has not received enough attention. These stamps were in use as late as the year 1852 ; that is the reason they were effaced by the following obliterations :—

"No. 1 (cross inside circular floreate ornament) in red is the rarest. Towards the end of 1849 the cross was taken out of the obliteration stamp, which is here called No. 2 (circular floreate ornament). The obliteration was made in red, seldom in black. No. 2 is also most common on these stamps ; less frequent No. 3 (diamond-shaped crossed bars), 1851 ; and 4 (diamond-shaped horizontal bars), from August, 1851, both in black. P P was, probably, also used." (A. SCHULZE.)

For the first Swiss postal district—Geneva, special stamps were also made for this period of transition, the first one being the so-called "Vaud 4," and was probably issued October 1st, 1849. The cause of its existence may be attributed to the Federal decision of June, 1849, which established the eleven Federal postal districts.

The nomination of the first director of the first postal district took place August 8th, 1849. This post was given to, and filled by M. T. Collignon.

These two dates, June and August, 1849, are of interest so far in that no Federal stamps could be issued before the election of the Federal postal staff.

There could have been only a small number of "4" made, as they had been issued but a short time when the figure 4 was erased and the figure 5

substituted, which is the reason why all the 4 are the same type, while all the 5 are only different in the figures; it is also asserted that one sheet contained 100 stamps.

The beginning of 1850 may be accepted as the time of issue of the second named.

A very celebrated Swiss collector gives the date of issue as November 7th, 1849, but his "*Briefstück*" must have passed through the well-known "cork-stamp-factory" in Geneva.

The new coinage caused the Federal Assemblies to pass a new law relating to the postal rates, August 25th, 1851, and is probably the reason of a fresh "5" issue (the so-called Neuchâtel), that most likely came into circulation October, 1851. This stamp was to all appearance the equivalent for the Federal money which was officially issued in Geneva and Vaud on October 1st, 1851. The above-named law relating to postal rates came into action January 1st, 1852. In order to clear up the accounts no stamps were sold by the authorities during the last week of 1851, all the 2½ were recalled, and the old stamps of Rayon I. and II at 5 and 10 rappen were re-issued January 1st, 1852, according to the new franc system. The earliest and latest dates of circulation, to my knowledge, are as follows:

"4" horizontal . . .	Jan. 24th, 1850 . . .	Feb. 1850.
"5" " . . .	June 23rd, 1850 . . .	Jan. 8th, 1852.
"5" vertical, or upright	Dec. 6th, 1851 . . .	June 12th, 1852.

B. III. BASIL.

Basel is the third in the alliance that introduced franking stamps for the Cantonal post, and I now quote an article taken from the *Schweiz Briefmarken Journal*, February, 1893:

"At the time the Cantons of Zurich and Geneva took the lead by introducing the postage stamps in the year 1843, which novelty met with general approbation, Basel did not intend being left behind, and in June, 1845, they had made such preparations that the new directions could be carried out in July. We read thereof in the *Allgemeinen Intelligenzblatt der Stadt Basel*, June 30th, 1845:

"TOWN POSTAL SERVICE.

"*Small Franking Papers* (Francozettelchen) of Basel.

"For the greater convenience of the public, letters can now be accepted prepaid, for delivery within the town of Basel, so that the receiver gets them free of charge.

"To this end, people wishing to avail themselves of this convenience are requested to supply themselves with "little franking papers," which may be obtained at the Post-office (Distributing office), 20 pieces at 5 batzen. One of these "little franking papers" is to be affixed to each letter of one loth, for delivery within the town; for heavier letters, and those for delivery in the suburbs, or the three adjoining country parishes, two are to be affixed. On the other hand, letters from those three parishes have also to bear two of these papers when they are prepaid. For fixing, moisten the back of the "little paper" and place it on the left top corner of the letter.'

"This publication cannot be accepted with certainty as the official directions for the issue of these stamps, but its appearance amongst the advertisements of the said

paper gives us the right to come to that conclusion, and I think we see in this a direct communication from the Postal headquarters, and also an exact copy of the official directions. Information concerning the manufacture of these stamps is given in a notice found on a whole sheet of 'Baselertäubschen' essays in the possession of a private person in Basel, which says, 'They were made only by Mr. Krebs, Frankfort-on-Main.'

This is about all that is known as regards the Cantonal stamps of Basel. Here also we have the period of transition, and, as in the Canton Zurich, the existing Postal institution remained the same, according to § 2, respecting the decision of the Federal Assembly concerning the taking over of the post for the benefit of the Federation, dated January 1st, 1849.

Unlike Zurich, the Basel stamps represented the exact value of the Federal postal rates (law of June 13th, 1849), that being the reason why no new stamp was made; but the Basel 2½ was kept in use until October, 1850, when the Federation issued the well-known 2½ Ortspost and Poste locale.

All the Basel Cantonal stamps as such, used from July 1st, 1845, up to December 31st, 1848, are obliterated without exception by a round red date-stamp. Beginning 1849, other defacing stamps came into use, and all these must be considered Federal postage stamps, issued from Postal district V. for the town postal circuit of Basel.

Mr. N. F. Seebeck and the South American Stamps.



UNDER date of October, 1895, we have received the following communication:—

"DEAR SIR,—I send you herewith enclosed some specimens of new issue of stamps, &c., that I have recently shipped to Salvador, and which will be put into use on the 1st of October, 1895.

Referring to these new issues, and to the outcry that has recently been made against the so-called 'Seebeck Issues,' I beg to inform you that these issues are not in any sense what might be termed speculative, and that none of these issues were recommended in any manner by me, but that I received the orders direct from the Government of Salvador to engrave these stamps, &c. Under the terms of my contract with said Government—which compels me to furnish all the stamps, envelopes, post cards, &c., that they may use or require during the term of said contract—no doubt you, as an experienced collector, will know at once that the sale of these special letter sheets, parcel stamps, &c., is so limited, that it would not pay me to put out thousands of dollars for the engraving of these issues, well knowing that I would not sell enough of them in ten years to be reimbursed for my original outlay; but I am compelled to fill the orders of the Government by the terms of my contract, and cannot possibly refuse—without breaking such contract—to engrave the stamps ordered. Immediately upon receiving the order, I made enquiries as to the necessities of the Post-office Department requiring these different issues, and found that the Assistant Postmaster-General is a European by birth—a Belgian—who desires to have

all revenue, &c., balanced by the issue of stamps, and who is also advocating the issuing of stamps for every other possible Government purpose—not alone for the Postage, but also for the Internal Revenue system. In fact, his idea is to model the Post-office Department after the Belgian and other European post-offices, and for this reason he has recommended it to the Postmaster-General of Salvador, who, in turn, has ordered from me the various stamps, &c., above referred to. Considering the number of new plates to be made, and the small quantity of these species that will ever be sold to collectors, all these extra issues will cost me considerably more money than I will ever receive back for remainders; and, if any of these issues are objectionable, the blame should be placed where it belongs, if any government can be blamed for choosing to administer its Post-office Department in a way patterned either after European countries, or after its own peculiar system.

“Hoping the above explanation will meet with your consideration,

“I beg to remain, very respectfully,

“N. F. SEEBECK.

“P.S.—Memorandum of inclosures, Salvador 1895 issue.

1 set of letter sheets for Local, Interior, and Exterior use.

1 set, ditto, Reply Paid.

Single and Double Official Post Cards.

Single and Double Regular 1 c. Post Cards, varying from the previous issue in change of title from ‘DEL SALVADOR’ to ‘DE EL SALVADOR.’

1 set of Unpaid Letter stamps ‘FRANQUEO DEFICIENTE.’

1 stamp for Unsealed Letters.

1 set of stamps for Mail Packages, ‘FARDOS POSTALES.’”

Forty-eight varieties in all!!

In the course of a further and private communication from Mr. Seebeck, the following passages occur, which will be of interest to our readers, and for the publication of which we have the author’s sanction.

“I take the liberty of sending you, herewith, enclosed specimens of new issues of stamps for Salvador, with an accompanying explanatory letter; and, knowing your high standing among English Philatelists, I would feel very much indebted if you would read over the enclosure carefully, as I find that my previous circular-letter, which I issued to the effect that I would be willing to cancel certain contracts that I hold with the different Governments, if I could do so honourably, instead of being appreciated by collectors as showing that I, for my part, am willing to help in the crusade against Speculative Issues, has not been accepted in the spirit in which I offered it, and I therefore feel, more or less, discouraged, in trying to do my best to help along the good cause.

“You, no doubt, understand fully the nature of my contracts, and know that the stamps which I furnish the different Governments are really not Speculative Issues, but are actually used for the requirements of the respective Governments, and that I have never, during the six (6) years that I have had these contracts with the different Governments, allowed any errors or surcharges, or, in fact, anything but stamps, &c., that have been really required for the necessities of the Governments, shipped to them. In a few instances the Government employees, in the different countries to whom I supply stamps, have had the same surcharged with different values, and created rarities, &c. None of these have ever been created with my knowledge or consent—there has only been a regular set each year, which is sold at 50 c. retail, or two shillings per set.

"When it is considered that all South American countries, at an average, issue a new set of stamps every five (5) years, the price of which, if bought direct from the respective Governments, would, in most cases, be more than the dealers' charge for five (5) sets of stamps, covering five issues, I cannot understand how much harm could come to collectors receiving fifty engraved stamps for the price that they would be charged for ten.

"Of course, I understand fully that this crusade against the so-called 'Seebeck Issues' would never have been commenced had it not been for the different (other) Governments in issuing 'Commemorative' and other superfluous stamps, for which there are no postal requirements. What I claim for all the issues I have engraved is, that each and every one has been issued to meet the requirements of the respective postal authorities; and it should be considered that, as these stamps are sold at a very low price, openly and above-board, they should not be classed as 'Speculative' issues, which are merely gotten up for a certain purpose, and not to meet the requirements of the respective Post-office Departments. Referring to this, and knowing that possibly there will be an outcry against the Salvador issue, bearing the portrait of President Ezeta, afterwards surcharged with the coat of arms, obliterating the portrait, and that some collectors will imagine that this issue was superfluous, I beg to state to you, herewith, the full particulars regarding this issue.

"When these stamps were engraved, in 1894, for use in Salvador in 1895, the then President (Ezeta) desired to have his portrait perpetuated on the stamps, and I received an official order to that effect. Later on, a successful revolution was organized against President Ezeta, and he was compelled to leave the country. The new authorities refused to use the stamps bearing the portrait of ex-President Ezeta, and as there was no time to engrave a new set for use in 1895, it was ordered that the stamps bearing the portrait of Ezeta should be obliterated with the coat of arms—covering said portrait—and placed in use for a short time, until a new issue could be prepared and sent down. This was done, and, if anything, these stamps have a historical value, as showing the political upheavals in the country.

"I enclose you a set of these stamps, and, should the matter ever come up before you, I hope that you will give above facts your consideration. In conclusion, I would say that the real and main object of my issuing the previous explanatory letter was, as I see myself that the different (other) Governments overdo the matter of issuing new stamps, that I fully appreciated that this will do a great deal of harm to Philately if it is not discontinued. For my issues, I claim that each and every one has been issued to meet the actual requirements of the respective Governments, and whether I take payment for the engraving by accepting the remainders, this has really nothing to do with the main issue, which is that the stamps so issued are really required by the Governments."



THE
Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps.

Circular No. 4.

391, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.,
December, 1895.



THE Society, in conjunction with the Special Committee appointed by the London Philatelic Society, having taken into consideration the Stamps mentioned below, are of opinion that they are not worth the attention of Philatelists, and appeal to all Collectors and Dealers to discountenance collecting or dealing in the same.

17. ECUADOR. We have received a communication from a very trustworthy authority in New York, that a set of Commemorative Stamps will shortly be issued for this country, of the values of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 centavos, and 1 sucre respectively. Our correspondent further states :

“I have seen a letter from the holder of the concession to a large exporting firm here, wherein he asks them to submit the designs, and states that he will be prepared to supply the Stamps in any quantity, either cancelled or uncanceled ; but that they must state the quantity they will engage to take before the issue is made. This would seem to be the worst kind of a job on the part of the Ecuadorian Government. In the first place, they have farmed out the control of the issue for so many dollars, cash in hand, to the holder of the concession, and in the next place, the concessionaire evidently is prepared to milk the philatelic market to its extreme capacity.”

18. FORMOSAN REPUBLIC. A set of these stamps was brought out by Liu-Yung-Fu, the chief of this newly-formed Republic. The following information respecting them has been furnished by an Englishman out there :

“There have been *two* issues ; the first was impressed from a very poor die (I fancy, locally made), on a rough kind of tissue paper. These were not perforated, but had to be cut off the sheet as required. *This issue is entirely exhausted*, as only 2000 were made. Although on the spot, and very favourably situated for getting official stamps, I know that no genuine ones of this issue are available, as I have tried to get them. It is stated that the die, being so imperfect, was remelted (*sic*) and attempts made to make another. This was also a failure, and so a die was ordered from Canton, where this work is well done, and the *second* issue made. These have the same device as the first, only much clearer, and only three kinds of *either* variety were issued, viz. (face value), 3, 5, and 10 cents, in red, violet, and blue respectively (the first issue were in red, violet, and green respectively). There have been no surcharged stamps. The second issue is on perforated paper, specially got for the purpose. The greatest care will have to be exercised in accepting stamps after the republic ceases, as the die is in the possession of the Chinese associated with Liu, and as they are quite aware of the financial opening these stamps afford, *may* go on manufacturing them. Liu has already opened negotiations with the Japanese, so the whole thing will last ten days or a fortnight. [The letter is dated the 10th October.] These stamps have been compulsorily used for *native* letters going hence to the

mainland of China, and all letters sent through native Post Office had to be viséd at the Custom House, to see they had the stamps affixed, so thus far they are genuine. *The Customs has been under the supervision of a foreigner, who, it is said, is, or was, a member of a foreign syndicate to sell these stamps.* There have been only 5000 of the second issue impressed *up to date*, but whether more may be made in the interests of speculation before the end actually arrives, I cannot say."

19. TONGA. Correspondents in Australia having drawn our attention to the issue of Stamps now being sold, which consist of stamps prepared some time since (but not issued, as it is said the reigning monarch was not pleased with his portrait), and which stamps have now been issued with a variety of surcharges, in a variety of colours, and in a variety of types, we endorse the opinion expressed by our Australian friends, that these stamps are unnecessary and speculative.

20. KOREA. Pending further investigations, caution should be exercised with regard to a new issue of stamps of this country.

Referring to Circular No. 3 :

16. SWEDEN. We have received from a trustworthy correspondent in Sweden (who has obtained his information direct from the authorities) a letter, in which he states that the Swedish Post Office does *not* intend to make a commemorative issue of any kind. We have much pleasure in making this announcement.

GORDON SMITH, *Secretary, S.S.S.S.*

HERBERT R. OLDFIELD,

Secretary to the Special Committee, London Philatelic Society.

Philatelic Notes.

(RELATING TO STAMPS OTHER THAN CURRENT ISSUES.)

WEST INDIAN STAMPS.

IN the minutes of the London Philatelic Society will be found some very interesting notes on these stamps, which would well fall under the title of "Philatelic Notes." The information was afforded by letters from Mr. A. W. Chambers—whose resignation from the Council will be much regretted—and formed the basis of a valuable debate, in which Mr. Tilleard, Mr. Bacon, and other well-known members took part.

DISCOVERIES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—We are indebted to Mr. J. N. Marsden for the sight of two stamps of this country, which are somewhat abnormal, and have been—to use a medical phrase—difficult to diagnose. The stamps in question are the 10d., lilac, wmk. numerals; and 9d., black surcharge on 10d., brown, wmk. N.S.W. and Crown—the former perf. 10, and the latter 11. The points of variation from the usually catalogued varieties are respectively,

as regards the 10d., that it is on a thick white paper, and of a very bright colour—a blue lilac—quite different from the ordinary stamp. It is to be met with occasionally on this paper, however, and the colour may be attributable to an early printing, and the fact that this fine unused specimen has been kept aloof from all exposure; unused, and perforated 10, it is a scarce stamp. As regards the 9d., the perforation is new to us; but in this, and the subsequent issues, there is great room for further examination and classification—*à la St. Vincent*—of the various perforations. The surcharge on this latter stamp at first sight appeared to vary from the generally-accepted specimen; but Mr. W. T. Wilson, who kindly examined these stamps, writes:

“A careful comparison of the two stamps sent with my stock and notes gives the following results: The 9d. is perf. 11, and corresponds with several of my specimens. The surcharge being very lightly impressed makes it appear smaller than usual; but I have unused and used specimens just the same. In the specimen sent, the second “N” is broken. I find the same thing in one of my specimens. Perforation 11 is new to me on this value. The 10d. is slightly darker than the perf. 10’s I have of this stamp, and which, being unused, are not likely to have faded.”

These two stamps are included in the list of those recently reprinted with O. S. surcharge—to deceive collectors—by the N.S.W. Post-office.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Messrs. Whitfield King and Co., unfortunately just too late for chronicle in our last issue, sent us the following interesting communication, by which it will be noted that two fresh varieties are established in this complex country:

“Errors in the case of local surcharges are of only too frequent occurrence; but when the surcharging is done in London, by De La Rue and Co., how often is any mistake found?

“We have just discovered an amazing error perpetrated by this firm, consisting of a quarter sheet of sixty stamps of Straits Settlements 32 c., *rose*, which were specially printed in order to be surcharged three cents, but the sixty stamps in question—being the top left-hand corner pane—have no surcharge whatever upon them, the machines having missed this quarter sheet altogether.

“The remaining three panes of sixty each were all properly surcharged ‘THREE CENTS,’ and one of these panes is still attached to the unsurcharged pane, making half a sheet of 120 stamps—sixty of 3 cents and sixty of 32 cents.

“The half sheet was purchased at the Singapore Post-office, and has just been re-sold to us intact, so that we possess all that exists of this remarkable error.

“We have also a sheet of sixty 1 c. on 6 c., lilac, with double surcharges, one of them being reversed. This, of course, was a local surcharge, but this variety is hitherto unchronicled.”

Occasional Notes.

THE EX-PRESIDENT OF THE LONDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

WE are pleased to learn that Mr. F. A. Philbrick, Q.C., has been appointed Judge of County Courts (Circuit 55), in the place of the late Judge Hooper. The district in which Mr. Philbrick’s judicial functions will be exercised is, we understand, that of Rochester, and therefore conveniently

near the Metropolis. The many Philatelic friends of the ex-President of the London Society will unite with us in congratulating the learned gentleman upon so honourable an appointment, coupled with the hope that he may be spared for many years in the exercise of his new office.

"THE TUG OF WAR"!

THE following account of a case that will, naturally, interest our readers is taken from the *Standard* of December 13th. We refrain from comment, as there are volumes between the lines.

"WICHMAN v. HILCKES AND CO. (LIMITED). — The plaintiff, George Charles Henry Wichman, of 75, Cheapside, brought his action to recover damages for libel, the defendants being Harry Hilckes and Co. (Limited) and Harry Hilckes. The defendants were stamp collectors and dealers, and the plaintiff had formerly been in their employ. When he left defendants' employment, plaintiff set up in business with a partner, under the style of J. Boulton and Co., and they also carried on the business of stamp collectors and dealers. The words complained of were published in a German philatelic paper, called *Vertrauliches Korrespondenz-Blatt Philatelistischer Vereine*, over the signature of Harry Hilckes and Co., of the City of London Philatelic Club. The words were to the effect that the firm of Boulton and Co. would shortly be formed in London, and that the proprietor was George Wichman, who was dismissed by Hilckes and Co. for dishonesty and breach of confidence. He had, it was stated, never been a collector, and now traded under a false name to get entrance into the German Societies. He was also described as a man of no means, and people were warned against him. A second libel was contained in a letter, in which reference was made to some frauds perpetrated by a late clerk, and this, plaintiff said, applied to him. It was not now asserted that there was any foundation for these statements, but defendants denied publication of the paragraph in the German newspaper, and in the alternative pleaded privilege. As to the second libel, it was, it was said, contained in a private letter which was written under circumstances which rendered it privileged. Mr. Dickens, q.c., and Mr. Lewis Thomas appeared for the plaintiff; and Mr. Carson, q.c., and Mr. Gye for the defendants.

"The hearing of the plaintiff's case had not proceeded very far when a settlement was arrived at, the defendants unreservedly withdrawing all charges against the plaintiff. and agreeing to send for insertion in the German newspaper a paragraph to that effect, and also to insert a similar paragraph in their own paper. Further, it was agreed that the defendants should pay £100 damages, with costs. Judgment accordingly."

THE U.S. SUPPLEMENT OF THE "LONDON PHILATELIST"

WE have received several communications from subscribers, in which they request that part 3 should be sent to them, and in reply would point out to them, and others, that the whole of the work has been delivered. Owing to the fact that Mr. E. D. Bacon was enabled to devote more time to the work in the early part of this year, we were thus in a position to deliver the *second and third parts together*, which was duly done, thus saving our friends from an unnecessary wait.

THE AUSTRIAN "MERCURY" STAMPS.

THERE have been few storms in the Philatelic Teapot that have excited such lively emotions as that caused by the recent "finds" of the yellow-rose and red newspaper stamps (1850-56) with the well-known head of Mercury. A large number of these stamps, some used "on original," and others unused, have been placed on the market during the past two years by well-known Austrian dealers, and for a long time were accepted in perfect good faith by almost all the leading dealers and collectors, *quorum pars parva fui*. Suspicions, however, ultimately arose, only to be turned into conviction; and after a most searching examination into all the questions of gum, paper, and impression, the stamps have been condemned by the highest Austrian Philatelic authorities as bad. We believe that they are reprints, and the postmarks even more so! There is still a mystery overhanging the question, and although much has been written hereon, there is room for more and plainer writing. We hope at a future date to be able to give a further account of these stamps; but for the same reason that we have hitherto had in not referring to the matter, we think it better to defer it. Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to know that any person who has these stamps can have them examined free of charge, and that if bought from Mr. S. Friedl, of Vienna, that gentleman is willing to at once, if desired, refund the amounts paid, until the end of February next. We are indebted for the knowledge of these facts to a courteous communication from the Secretary of the Oesterreiche Philatelisten Club, Herr Joh Sieberth. The purport of the letter is as follows: That the Expert Committee of the Oesterreichische Philatelisten Club expresses its readiness to examine and report upon all Mercuries, free of all charge, whether belonging to members of the Austrian or London Societies, or not. To this end, the stamps must be sent under registered cover, with stamps for return postage, and addressed:

Oesterreichische Philatelisten Club,

Wallner Strasse 15,

Wien (Vienna) I.,

with the word "Prüfungstelle" in the corner. Any holder of these Mercurial stamps who does not avail himself of the spirited offer of our Viennese friends, will indeed be blind to his own best interests!

MR. HADLOW'S QUEENSLAND CATALOGUE.

FOLLOWING the example of other members of the trade, Mr. Hadlow has now issued a handy vest-pocket catalogue of colonial stamps. The feature, however, herein more directly concerning this journal, is a list of the stamps of Queensland, which its author states to be the most complete ever issued. It is well known that Mr. Hadlow has always made a speciality of these stamps, and it is therefore assured that the list is a good one. An excellent innovation is that the perforations are shewn (taken from the reverse of the stamps) on a black background, and at a glance reveal their several peculiarities. It is a price list—of used stamps only—but is well worthy of the Australian collector's attention.

AUSTRALIAN NOTES.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

THE reprint question has been agitating the Philatelic mind in the sister colonies of Victoria and New South Wales of late. The circumstances attending the interview between the Postmaster-General of Victoria and a deputation from the Philatelic Society have been reported in the *Australian Philatelist*, and it is gratifying to learn that an assurance was given that no further supplies of obsolete stamps should be printed without having some mark to distinguish them from the originals. There is, however, a familiar ring about this promise. Something of the kind was said when the celebrated 1891 reprints were made.

On the 31st October a deputation from the Sydney Philatelic Club, consisting of Aldermen F. Josephson and J. G. Griffin, with Mr. J. McLean, Secretary of the Club, waited on the Postmaster-General of New South Wales, to ask him to discontinue the printing of obsolete types of stamps for the purpose of sale to collectors, unless some distinguishing mark was placed upon them.

The deputation pointed out that the action of the department in recently reprinting certain O.S. stamps, obliterating them with a postmark, and offering them for sale in sets, was, in effect, uttering a forgery. The postal mark affixed gave them the appearance of stamps that had really franked letters, while, as a matter of fact, the specimens had been printed and cancelled some time after their prototypes had been withdrawn from active service. By selling these stamps at a low price, an injustice was being done to stamp collectors all over the world, to say nothing of the impropriety of issuing such irregular prints.

In reply to the deputation, the Postmaster-General said that the stamps referred to were so much sought after that he had made them available, and by doing so had obviated the risks of forgery by persons for the sake of gain. One thousand sets had been printed, and many sold; but he would make a definite promise, that, after the balance had been sold, no more should be issued.

It is perhaps a sweeping accusation to make against these O.S. stamps—to call them all reprints. In reality, a large proportion of the varieties are original remainders, which were in the printer's hands on the withdrawal of the series from use. The current issue (Centennial and Postal Union Series) are certainly originals; but the 20s. and 5s., on the old paper, and the representatives of obsolete stamps, are doubtless reprints in the proper acceptance of the term. Collectors generally will not cavil at this issue of cancelled sets, as the price places them within the reach of all, but the tendency will certainly be to reduce the value of such things as the long 20s., surcharged "Postage," of which only *five* copies were issued for actual use.*

* * * * *

Victoria has been making several colour changes lately, which do not appear to have much reason to support them. The 2s., after being printed

* Our views on this point are widely different from those of our esteemed correspondent,—ED.

in light yellow-green, was found to resemble the 9d., in its own recently-changed coat, too closely. Consequently, the colour of the lower value was changed to rosy-carmine on white. But although the change thus effected might reasonably be supposed to obviate the possibility of confusion, it was deemed necessary to again alter the 2s., which now appears in a garish blue-green.

* * * * *

The same Colony has made a new, and decidedly objectionable departure, in printing post cards with glaring advertisements on the address side. I have the 1d. of current type, printed in *blue*, with the inscription crowded up between the stamp and two hideous blocks advertising an aromatic tobacco, and a popular brand of lager beer! The regulations governing the issue of post cards, in most countries, are very strict on the point of forbidding anything to be printed on the address side, save the words, "Post Card"; but in the case of Victoria, they have apparently "made other arrangements." The departure has roused a perfect storm in the Colony. Ministers, total abstainers from beer and tobacco, Secretaries to Young Men's Christian Associations, &c., have taken strong objections to the demoralising advertisements. They have cut them off, or pasted paper over them, only to find that the mutilated or covered card is charged 2d. on delivery! Mr. Duffy, the Postmaster-General, says that revenue is wanted, and if any members of the public object to use the advertisement cards, they can use their own cards, with a 1d. adhesive stamp. I think, however, that the reign of the "Beer and Baccy" card will be a short one, as even now non-abstainers dislike the thing, and complain about it.

* * * * *

I am grieved, indeed, to find that I "chortled too previously" in my last notes with regard to the laureated 6d. Victoria, watermarked with double-lined Z. It is catalogued in Stanley Gibbons' last price list! However, my mistake may be forgiven, as the stamp has apparently not been chronicled elsewhere.

* * * * *

Apropos of unchronicled errors. About twelve years ago I had an approval sheet from a leading (then and now) English dealer, from which I took a stamp purporting to be the 40 c., 1854, Italy. It was undoubtedly a genuine used stamp, and had not been removed from the piece of original letter. On closely examining it, however, I found the inscription embossed to be "c. cinque," instead of "c. quaranta." I prized that stamp very much; and it was only the temptation of the late Dr. Ellison, who offered the two Cape "wood-blocks" in exchange, that induced me to part with it. As late as 1892, I saw it again at Brisbane, Q., in Dr. Ellison's collection; but where it has gone to since his decease, I know not. I have never seen this particular error chronicled, and yet there must have been at least one whole sheet printed.



Review.

"HILCKES' AUCTION SUMMARY."*



THIS is an admirably-compiled and useful little book, being, as far as auctions are concerned, as stated on the title-page, "A complete guide to the values of rare postage stamps." The arrangements are very simple, being alphabetical, each stamp in all its phases being consecutively worked out, with its varying prices, and the pages have a lettered index, so that a reference to any stamp can be momentarily made. It is incomparably, in our opinion, the best and most up-to-date guide to auction prices yet issued; it is reasonable in price, handy to carry, and, in a word, should be in every collector's and dealer's hands who ever attends an auction—or does not.

* *Hilckes' Auction Summary for the Season 1894-95.* Harry Hilckes and Co., Limited, 64, Cheapside, London, E.C.

New Issues.

NOTES OF NEW AND VARIATIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES.

(Varieties of Obsolete Stamps and Discoveries will be found under "Philatelic Notes.")

We do not profess to chronicle everything, but, with the kind help of correspondents, are desirous that all the important novelties may be included. Speculative stamps—i.e. those not really required for postal purposes—will be considered on their merits, and Jubilee issues will not be chronicled. The early intimation of any legitimate New Issues is desired, accompanied if possible by a specimen or specimens of the stamp or stamps referred to, which will be promptly returned, and the sender's name (unless otherwise requested) acknowledged. Address: EDITOR, "LONDON PHILATELIST," EFFINGHAM HOUSE, ARUNDEL STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

GREAT BRITAIN AND COLONIES.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA. — Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. have forwarded for our inspection an envelope franked with specimens of the issue chronicled on page 220 for the new British Protectorate. There is no doubt now as to the *bonâ-fides* of this series, being one for the Crown Colony known as British Nyassaland, or British Central Africa Protectorate. From a further envelope forwarded by our correspondents it would appear that, previous to the arrival of the above stamps, the old Company Twopenny adhesive was surcharged "ONE PENNY" above the lower label, with a thick bar across the old value. This, our corre-

spondents inform us, was an issue in no connection with the British South African Company, but overprinted by the Government authorities while waiting for the arrival of the permanent series. Thus this stamp forms the first issue of British Central Africa Protectorate, or British Nyassaland. We understand that only 6000 copies were surcharged.

Our correspondents further inform us that the £25 stamp included in our list on page 220 has not been issued. The following two letters are included in our chronicle, as they contain interesting information.

Adhesive. "ONE PENNY" in black on twopence, green, red, and black.

"THE CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES,
"DOWNING STREET, LONDON,
"28th November, 1895.

"BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

"GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your letter of the 25th November, I have to state that the new issue of stamps, post cards, and envelopes for the Protectorate of the values mentioned in our letter of the 20th June last, were manufactured by Messrs. De La Rue and Co., under the direct instructions of the Commissioner when he was in England, in the latter part of 1894, and before we became Agents for the Protectorate.

"We are not aware whether the new stamps will become a permanent issue, but we have pointed out to the Commissioner the desirability of printing stamps on watermarked paper.

"I am, gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

(Signed), "E. E. BLAKE.

"Messrs. WHITFIELD KING & Co., Ipswich."

"THE BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA COMPANY.

"15, ST. SWITHIN'S LANE, E.C., LONDON,

"3rd December, 1895.

"DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, the Company's stamps overprinted 'B. C. A.' will continue in use in the British Central Africa Protectorate until the issue has been exhausted.

"Whether this has occurred already or not, I cannot say. These stamps, however, will be used in the Company's sphere, outside the British Central Africa Protectorate, and north of the Zambesi, until the Company's new issue is made.

"The new stamps of the British Central Africa Protectorate will only be used within the Protectorate.

"I am, dear sir,

"Yours faithfully,

(Signed), "HERBERT CANNING,

"Secretary.

"Messrs. WHITFIELD KING & Co., Ipswich."

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—Mr. Nankivell has shown us the 1 rupee value with the overprint "British East Africa," as described on page 243, and omitted from the values chronicled there; also the $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas, violet, with overprint in red, " $2\frac{1}{2}$," the larger figure measuring $11\frac{1}{2} \times 8$ mm., and the fractional figures $5\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

We are indebted to the courtesy of the Honorary Vice-President of the Society for information regarding specimens in the collection of His Royal Highness of the New Issue here. They consist of the current issue of India, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 annas, and 2 annas and six pies, surcharged in three horizontal lines of small capitals in lower case.

Adhesives.

1 rupee,	rose,	black surcharge.		
" $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	on 4 annas,	red surcharge on black and violet.		
$\frac{1}{2}$ anna,	green,	on current Indian, black surcharge.		
1 "	plum	" "	" "	" "
2 annas,	blue	" "	" "	" "
$2\frac{1}{2}$ "	green	" "	" "	" "

CANADA.—Several of our contemporaries note a change in the shade of the 8 c. adhesive. Whether this is an intentional change or not is at present a query; anyway, there is a decided distinction between blue-grey and slate-black.

Adhesive. 8 cents, slate-black.

MAURITIUS.—The new issue heralded on page 270 has begun to make its appearance, and we have seen a specimen of the 3 cents, the design of which is very ordinary, consisting of coat of Arms in the centre, with the one word "MAURITIUS" above (not Mauritius Postage and Revenue as stated), and "3 CENTS" below. The paper is watermarked Crown CA, and perforated 14.

Adhesive. 3 cents, lilac.

In addition to the above, we have received from Messrs. Whitfield King and Co. a wrapper with stamp of the type described above; also a provisional post card for inland use, which bears the inscription "MAURITIUS" "INLAND POST CARD," with the full Arms of the Colony underneath, three ruled lines for the address, and the inscription, "The address only to be written on this side," in English and French. The stamp consists of an ordinary 2 c., green, adhesive of the 1882 issue.

Wrapper. 3 cents, green on buff.

Post Card. (Two Cents), green and black on white.

QUEENSLAND.—We were in error when we chronicled the 1s. on Beer Duty paper, with *no* wmk. It should be, wmk. large Q and Crown.

Adhesive. 1 sh., mauve; Beer Duty paper.

SEYCHELLES.—The following information, taken from the *P. J. of G. B.*, is very interesting. We only hope the "gentleman in the Island" is not in the Post-office service; although, from lingering reminiscences of former "crops," this we should surmise to be the case.

Some very doubtful surcharging is to commence here on January 1st. The 8, 13, 15, 16, 45, 48, and 96 c. values are to be done away with, and 5, 20, 40 c., and 1 r. are to be introduced. Certain values are to be surcharged, the 13 c. to be reduced to 5 c., the 45 c. to 20 c., the 48 c. to 40 c.; and the envelopes are not to escape, the 15 c. being altered to 10 c., and the 30 c. to 20 c. As an inducement to buy, we are told that only small stocks of some of the values will be on hand, and, therefore, there will only

be a few to surcharge, and various dealers have been "privately" offered a supply by a "gentleman in the Island."

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—*Perak*.—We have already referred to the higher values of the new series, and understand that \$1, 2, 5, 25, and \$100 stamps have been supplied, although we are not able at present to give the colours of these. It is also stated that Selangor, Pahang, Sungei Ujong, and Negri Sembilan have all been supplied with full sets, but this we cannot verify.

EUROPE.

AUSTRIA.—*Le T.-P.* informs us that the 1 and 2 gulden stamps are to undergo a change of colour from the 1st of January next. The 1 gulden to be yellow-green, and the 2 gulden lilac.

BULGARIA.—*Le T.-P.* has received the 2 stotinki surcharged "01" which was issued on October 30th. An approaching issue is also announced of postage stamps of 2 and 3 levas, and unpaid stamps of 10 and 30 stotinki.

Adhesive. 1 stot on 2 stot; grey-green, red surch.

NORWAY.—*The M.J.* chronicles the following cards, with NORGE in the redrawn type:

Postcards. 3 öre, orange on white.
5+5 öre, green " "

AMERICA.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Already it is announced that a change in the handsome series of 1892 is imminent.

BRAZIL.—A Letter Card of 100 reis is announced.

Letter Card. 100 r., carmine and blue on grey.

MEXICO.—Various of our contemporaries chronicle the 4 c. with the colour changed from vermilion to orange.

Adhesive. 4 c., orange.

PERU.—The colour of the surcharge on the 4 c. post card is said to have been changed from red to deep blue.

Post Card. 4 c., black on white; deep blue surcharge.

URUGUAY.—*Le T.-P.* notes the following stamps with diagonal surcharge "OFFICIAL" in black.

Official. 1 c., blue; black surcharge.
2 c., brown " "
5 c., brick-red " (1895).

OTHER COUNTRIES.

FERNANDO PO.—Stamps of 10 c. and 50 c., bearing the profile of Alfonso XIII. in the new type, are said to be in preparation.

NATIVE INDIAN STATES.—*Nowanugger*.—*The P. J. of G. B.* has received a set of the current stamps, with a surcharge in native characters for official use. The surcharge consists of a badly-shaped 2, with the tail almost vertical, and a 3 turned upside-down.

Official. 1 docra, black; surcharge magenta.
2 " green " "
3 " yellow " "

SIRMOOR.—The current set of adhesives has been surcharged 'On S.S.S.' for official use.

Official. 3 pies, orange; black surcharge.
6 " green " "
1 anna, blue " "
2 annas, carmine " "

Philatelic Societies' Meetings.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

Honorary President—H.R.H. DUKE ALFRED OF SAXE-COBURG AND GOTHA, K.G., &c.

Hon. Vice-President—H.R.H. THE DUKE OF YORK, K.G.

Council for the Year 1895-96:

President—THE EARL OF KINGSTON.

Vice-President—M. P. CASTLE.

Hon. Secretary—J. A. TILLEARD.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—R. PEARCE.

Hon. Treasurer—C. N. BIGGS.

Librarian—T. MAYCOCK.

E. D. BACON.

E. B. EVANS.

T. WICKHAM JONES.

R. EHRENBACH.

D. GARTH.

H. R. OLDFIELD.

THE fifth meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 15th November, 1895, at 7.30 p.m., the following members being present; viz.,

Messrs. E. D. Bacon, R. Ehrenbach, Gordon Smith, R. Meyer, T. Maycock, J. G. Tolhurst, A. A. Davis, W. Silk, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, and J. A. Tilleard.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr. Dalgety Henderson resigning his membership, and his resignation was directed to be acknowledged with great regret.

On the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Bacon, moved in pursuance of notice previously given, it was resolved that Article 22 of the Statutes be rescinded, and the following substituted therefore :

"Article 22. Members elected after the 26th day of May, 1893, pay an entrance fee of *one guinea*, to be increased to *two guineas* in the case of members whose applications for membership are received after the 31st day of March, 1895. Honorary members pay no entrance fee or subscription."

Mr. E. J. Nankivell then moved, "That the question of the action of the New South Wales Government in regard to the official stamps be referred to the Committee for dealing with speculative and unnecessary stamps, with instructions to make some representations to the Colonial Secretary on the subject." The motion being seconded by Mr. Bacon, was put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Ehrenbach called attention to an article in the *Illustrierte Briefmarken Zeitung*, to the effect that the German Postal Authorities had decided to propose, at the next congress to be held at Washington, an international agreement that all jubilee and commemorative stamps be barred from the public service, and that new issues should not be made oftener than might actually be necessary for *bonâ fide* postal arrangements.

Mr. Ehrenbach then read a paper on the "Skilling Issues of Norway." In the course of his remarks, he pointed out that although the first 4 skilling stamp is described as watermarked with a lion, he had never been able to discover a specimen with a watermark of any description. He mentioned that there were different printings for the second series, and he gave descriptions of the varieties of type he had met with in the third and fifth issues. The paper was illustrated by his fine collection of unused stamps, which includes a complete sheet of the 2 skilling issue, June, 1867, shewing the watermarked frame round the margin of the sheet, and a block of the 24 skilling issue, 1863, containing several of the type varieties.

On the conclusion of the paper, Mr. E. D. Bacon proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Ehrenbach, and this having been seconded by Mr. E. J. Nankivell, was passed unanimously, and the paper later on will be published in the *London Philatelist*.

Mr. Ehrenbach then handed round some dangerous imitations of the first issue lithographed Hungarian stamps. These consisted of cut envelope specimens, gummed, and with a forged perforation which is almost identical with that on the usual adhesive stamps. Collectors are therefore warned to examine most carefully any specimens, either unused or used, that may be offered to them.

THE sixth meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 22nd November, 1895, at 7.30 p.m., the members in attendance being—Messrs. M. P. Castle, H. R. Oldfield, R. Meyer, B. D. Knox, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, T. Maycock, R. Ehrenbach, and J. A. Tilleard.

The chair having been taken by the Vice-President, the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Oldfield, as Honorary Secretary of the Committee for dealing with the subject of speculative and unnecessary stamps, gave an explanation of the work which had been done by the Committee, in concert with the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps, and invited suggestions from members as to the manner in which the work of the Committee might be usefully extended.

An interesting discussion ensued, in which most of the members present took part ; and, amongst other proposals, it was determined that the publishers of stamp albums should be approached with a view to prevent space being provided for, or illustrations or descriptions being given of, any stamps which might come under the *bau* of the Suppression Society.

It was also resolved, on the motion of Mr. Pearce, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, that "The Society has observed with regret that the Government of the Transvaal has issued a commemorative stamp which, not being of a permanent character, does not appear to have been necessary for the ordinary requirements of the postal service."

It was further considered desirable that some attempt should be made to induce Philatelic Societies in all parts of the world

to use their influence with the delegates of their respective countries, at the Postal Congress at Washington, to support an international agreement against the issue of jubilee or commemorative stamps, or other issues not actually necessary for *bond fide* postal requirements.

THE seventh meeting of the session was held at Effingham House, on the 29th November, at 7.30 p.m. The members present were: Messrs. H. R. Oldfield, E. D. Bacon, R. Meyer, G. B. Routledge, F. E. L. Cator, A. C. Emerson, T. Maycock, W. Silk, L. S. Wells, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, B. D. Knox, J. A. Tilleard, T. W. Hall, and Gordon Smith.

The chair was taken by Mr. Bacon, in the absence of the President and Vice-President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. A. W. Chambers, stating his desire to resign his membership, an announcement which was received with very great regret, and on the motion of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Maycock, it was unanimously resolved that Mr. A. W. Chambers be elected an honorary member of the Society.

Mr. R. Meyer read a short paper on "The Disadvantages of Specializing," in which, while admitting its practical necessity at the present day, he contrasted the advantages claimed for specializing with its disadvantages, commenting particularly on its tendency to lead to the multiplication of minute differences, which, in many cases, would not be considered sufficiently pronounced to constitute "varieties" in the ordinary acceptance of the term by the general body of collectors. On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Wells, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Meyer for his paper.

The Secretary then read two letters recently received by him from Mr. A. W. Chambers, relating to the use of the stamps of the United Kingdom in the West Indies, embodying the result of a search through old letters ranging between 1849 and 1863. It would appear that the values generally used were the 1d. red (stars in upper corners), and the 4d. rose, 6d. lilac, and 1/- green, without letters in the corners. Mr. Chambers' investigations showed the earliest dates on the postmarked letter sheets to be as follows:

Jamaica	11 May 1858	A. o 1
Antigua	29 April 1858	A. o 2
British Guiana	10 May 1858	A. o 3
Montserrat	12 Oct. 1858	A. o 8
Nevis	29 May 1858	A. o 9
St. Christopher	14 Mar. 1859	A. 12
Tobago	8 Sept. 1858	A. 14

The stamps appear to have been so used up to May or June, 1860, after which date the letters bore no postage stamps, but had instead a hand-stamp showing that the postage was paid at the place of posting, such as "JAMAICA PAID"—"PAID AT ANTIGUA," &c. About the same time Mr. Chambers observed that the letters were often marked with a red figure "5," some also having the figure "1," or "1d," in black, in addition; in both cases *written* on the cover. Shortly afterwards came the 5d. in red on the 12 Cents value of the 1860 issue of British Guiana. In illustration of his remarks, Mr. Chambers sent a book containing letter sheets and stamps used in the various West Indian Colonies, showing the earliest and latest dates of the use of stamps which he had found, and the earliest and latest dates of the hand stamped letters, after the use of the postage stamps was discontinued.

In the discussion which ensued the general opinion prevailed, that, although the claim of some specialists, that the stamps of the United Kingdom, bearing foreign or Colonial postmarks, should be collected as being stamps of the place from which they were posted, could not be supported, the investigation of the subject of their use abroad was one of considerable interest in the study of postal history.

On the motion of Mr. Bacon, seconded by Mr. Nankivell, the Secretary was directed to convey to Mr. Chambers the thanks of the Society for his researches, and for the interesting remarks contained in his letters; and also for kindly placing at the disposal of the meeting the collection which he had formed illustrative of the information supplied by his communications.

In moving the vote of thanks, Mr. Bacon remarked that the accuracy of Mr. Chambers' investigations into the subject was vouched by the official notices as to the use of British postage stamps in the West Indian Colonies, set out in Mr. Bacon's preliminary notes, to be found in the Society's work on the stamps of the West Indies, Mr. Chambers having

found stamps dated within a day or two of the dates of the notices referred to.

Mr. Bacon also reminded the meeting that, up to 1860, the postal arrangements of the West Indian Colonies were under the control of the Home Post Office Department—the service being supplied, and the revenue taken, by the mother country; and the local postmasters and officials being appointed by the Postmaster-General of Great Britain. He pointed out, that the arrangement for the use of the stamps being only applicable where the whole of the postage belonged to the British Post-office, the stamps remain British stamps, used in the postal service of the United Kingdom, thus affording a strong reason against their recognition as stamps of the Colonies, merely because they may bear the distinctive obliteration of a branch of the British Post-office in any of such Colonies.

In reference to the figure "5" which appears on some of the letters, Mr. Bacon explained that early in 1860 most of the West Indian Colonies took over the control of their own postal affairs. At this time an arrangement was made, by which the Home Government still supplied the packet service each way, the General Post-office receiving fourpence out of each sixpence paid for letters, for the packet rate, with an additional penny (making fivepence in all) for local charges for distribution in the U. K., the remaining one penny being taken by the Colonial Post-office for its own local charges. He observed that several of the letters shewn by Mr. Chambers were marked "5" in red, and "1" or "1d." in black, thus shewing the division referred to.

In answer to a very generally expressed desire of the members present, Mr. Bacon kindly promised to look further into the subject, and to embody his remarks and observations in a paper, to be read before the Society at a future meeting.

Mr. E. J. Nankivell produced for examination a forgery which he had received from a correspondent abroad, consisting of a *tête-bêche* pair of the 6d. (blue on blue) rouletted stamp of the Transvaal, with the overprint "VR," and Transvaal with capital initial and small letters. Mr. Nankivell explained that this and similar forgeries appeared to be very plentiful on the Continent, and warned collectors against them.

THE eighth meeting of the season was held at Effingham House on Friday, the 6th December, 1895, at 7.30 p.m.

In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the chair was taken by Mr. E. D. Bacon, the other members in attendance being Messrs. R. Ehrenbach, R. Meyer, E. L. Cator, G. B. Routledge, T. W. Hall, T. Wickham Jones, T. Maycock, F. Ransom, E. J. Nankivell, R. Pearce, Gordon Smith, J. A. Tilleard, and B. D. Knox.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, Mr. Bacon reported that the Council had chosen Mr. Oldfield to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Chambers' retirement.

The business of the evening consisted of the consideration of the question of "Forgeries." Mr. Bacon, in opening a discussion on the subject, went through the forgery collection of the Society, pointed out the most interesting specimens which it contained, and gave a large amount of valuable information in relation to the forgeries which had proved the most dangerous to collectors. The discussion was joined in by many of the members present, and lasted until a late hour in the evening.

On the motion of Mr. Ehrenbach, seconded by Mr. Tilleard, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bacon for his interesting explanations, and to the Librarian for his work in arranging the forgery collection of the Society.

BIRMINGHAM PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President: W. T. WILSON, ESQ.

Hon. Sec. and Treas.: MR. G. JOHNSON, B.A., 208, Birchfield Road, Birmingham.

November 21st. J. A. Galbraith (Trinidad), E. Sigerist-Moser (Schaffhausen), A. C. Jones (Bermuda), were unanimously elected members.

Votes of thanks were accorded Messrs. E. F. Wurtell and Croome for twenty-five Philatelic Journals and *The Stamps of Egypt* respectively.

Mr. C. A. Stephenson then gave a very interesting and carefully prepared paper on the "Stamps of the United States from 1847 to 1869," illustrated by his own collection and a number of other good collections belonging to the members present; also some sent by corresponding members. In the intervals between the various issues, and at the end of the paper, there was a very lively discussion on the minor varieties of die, ornament, and *grille*.

December 5th. R. S. Bhatavadeker (Bombay), J. G. Wilson (Barbados), were unanimously elected members.

Subscriptions were voted to London Philatelic Society's *South Africa*, and other publications.

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. H. L. Even for a bound copy of his *Priced Catalogue of the Stamps of Great Britain*.

Then followed the "Display of the stamps of Italy and the Italian States, together with the forgeries and reprints of the same."

The exhibit was very fine, and included most of the rarities, unused and used, on originals.

December packet. This requires special notice, as it is probably the finest packet ever circulated in an English Exchange. The sheets sent in were worth over £1200, and about half of this value consisted of fine unused colonials, especially British North America and West Indies, and nearly all prices considerably below catalogue. The St. Vincents included: 5/-, star; 4d., yellow, no wmk.; 4d., red-brown, CA., all unused; Nevis, St. Kitts, Virgin Islands, Dominica, Nova Scotia, were almost complete in shades. Considering that all the sheets were sent in at reasonable prices, it was thought advisable, with the owner's consent, to keep over two duplicate sheets worth over £300 till next packet, leaving the value £894 5s. 5½d. But from promises already to hand, it is very likely that the January packet will be very considerably larger than this.

THE BRADFORD PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

THE monthly meeting of this Society was held on Tuesday, December 3rd. The President, Mr. Oliver Firth, occupied the chair, and there was a large number of members present. The formal business of the Society having been disposed of, the President read a paper on the stamps of the Virgin Islands, dealing with the subject in

a most interesting and instructive manner, and the information imparted to the members was much appreciated.

The next meeting will be held on the 3rd January next.

W. H. SCOTT, *Hon. Sec.*

1, PICCADILLY, BRADFORD.

BRIGHTON AND SUSSEX PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

Hon. President—BARON DE WORMS.

President—M. P. CASTLE.

Acting Hon. Secretary—W. T. WILLETT, West House, Brighton.

THE third meeting of the season 1895-96 was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Tuesday, November 12th, at 8.15 p.m.

Eight members attended. The President in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, a

letter was read from Mr. S. H. Cotton, resigning his membership, which was accepted with regret. Mr. W. Balchin, proposed by Mr. Upton, and seconded by Mr. Manwaring, was duly elected a member of the Society. The President then exhibited his collection of the stamps of Naples, with explanatory notes on the dates of issue, sub-varieties, shades, and other points of interest. The collection, which included absolutely every variety in numerous shades, used and unused, many blocks, and other interesting varieties, was much admired by the members present, and a cordial vote of thanks, moved by Mr. W. T. Willett, and seconded by Dr. Seymour Burrows, was unanimously passed.

THE fourth meeting of the season 1895-96

was held at Markwell's Hotel, Brighton, on Monday, November 25th, at 8.15 p.m. Six members were present. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, Dr. Seymour Burrows took the chair. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and confirmed, Mr. H. Langton, proposed by Mr. M. P. Castle, seconded by Dr. Seymour Burrows, was duly elected a member of the Society. A very interesting series of stamps, on original covers, was shewn by Mr. Pfenninger, Mr. Stafford Smith, and Mr. Upton, and much appreciated by the members present. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to them, on the motion of Dr. Seymour Burrows, seconded by Mr. W. T. Willett.

LEEDS PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—W. DENISON ROEBUCK, F.L.S.

THE second meeting of the session 1895-6 was held at the Municipal Buildings, Leeds, on Saturday evening, October 19th, Mr. Eugene Egly, Vice-President, in the chair. A large number of donations were acknowledged, and several novelties shown. Mr. Herbert Hepworth was elected a member.

Mr. T. K. Skipwith then gave the fourth and concluding instalment of his account of the stamps of Victoria, illustrated by an almost complete series of the issues described.

THE third meeting of the session was held on Monday, November 4th, Mr. F. J. Kitson, Hon. Treasurer, in the chair, with eight members present. Novelties were shown by Mr. J. W. Duffield. In the absence of the President, who, by reason of a bad cold, was unable to give his paper, Mr. T. K. Skipwith described the stamps of the Laureated issue of New South Wales, his own and the collections of Mr. Thackrah and Mr. S. E. Nixon being shown in illustration.

T. KERSHAW SKIPWITH, 13, Victoria Road, Headingley, Leeds;	} Hon. Secs.
JOHN H. THACKRAH, 54, St. Michael's Road, Headingley, Leeds.	

MANCHESTER PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—VERNO ROBERTS.

THE second ordinary meeting of the session was held on the 11th October, at the Blackfriars Hotel, the senior Vice-President in the chair. Messrs. A. S. Sullivan, W. Speidel, and J. J. Darlow were elected members of the Society. Mr. W. D. Beckton read a paper on "The Stamps of Queensland," introducing his subject with a brief, but interesting, geographical, historical, industrial, and political sketch of the country. All the various issues up to 1891, with their

varieties of perforation, watermarks, &c., were fully described and illustrated *seriatim*. In connection with the lithographed issue of 1866, values 4d. and 5s., Mr. Beckton said that after careful consideration he was quite convinced that for the 4d. stamp a lithographic transfer had been taken from the three pence engraved plate, the word "three" having been erased, and "four" inserted by hand, after the transfer was made. This would account for the word

"four" varying so much in size, shape, and position (at least eight stamps with strongly marked differences were exhibited by the essayist). In further confirmation several of the stamps shew decided traces of parts of the word three. The enlargement of these stamps with the lantern, at the opening meeting, shewed these remains very clearly. The five shilling value had been

evidently prepared in the same manner from the one shilling engraved plate, the one being altered to five, and the letter s inserted after shilling. The same marked differences exist in this value, particularly in the added letter s.

WILLIAM W. MUNN, *Hon. Sec.*
ASHFIELD, PEEL CAUSEWAY, NEAR ALTRINCHAM.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, NEW YORK.

25, ANN STREET, ROOM 1.

THE regular monthly meeting of the Society was held at its rooms, 25, Ann Street, on November 18th, 1895.

Present—Messrs. Herrick, Scott, Curtis, Andreini, Quigley, Gregory, Thorne, Clotz, and as visitor Mr. Edgar R. Carter. Mr. Herrick the Vice-President occupied the chair, and Mr. Chas. Gregory was appointed Secretary *pro tem*. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

Mr. John T. Wainwright, 45, Broadway, N. Y., proposed by Mr. Chas. Gregory, and seconded by Mr. J. W. Scott; and Dr. Jas. H. Stebbins, 114, Pearl St., N. Y., proposed by Mr. Wm. Herrick, and seconded by Mr. J. W. Scott, were unanimously elected members of the Society.

The resignation of Mr. Chas. W. March was received and accepted with regret. The resignation of Mr. L. Levison was also accepted with regret.

The regular business of the evening was then taken up, and the resolution to amend Article III, paragraph 1, to make it read as follows was made by Mr. Gregory, and seconded by Mr. Wm. Thorne: "The names of candidates for admission received by the Governing Committee for approval, if approved by all the members of the Governing Committee who can be reached by the Secretary (not less than seven of the Committee voting) shall be duly posted."

This amendment, after some discussion, was adopted, and the Article duly amended in accordance therewith.

It was then moved by Mr. Clotz, and seconded by Mr. Scott, that an Exchange Department be formed in this Society; carried unanimously. It was moved by Mr. Gregory, seconded by Mr. Clotz, that Mr. J. W. Scott be appointed Exchange Manager,

with power to establish rules for the government of his Department, subject to the approval of the Governing Committee; carried unanimously. Mr. Gregory then offered the following resolution:

Resolved: "That an auxiliary membership be formed in this Society, and that this meeting (notice having been duly given) have power to adopt the necessary Article in the Constitution creating it, and the rules to govern it."

This motion was seconded by Mr. Wm. Thorne, and carried unanimously. It was moved and seconded, the members forming this class of membership must reside not nearer than fifty miles from New York; carried unanimously. Moved and seconded, that the candidates for admission to this class of membership be passed upon by the Governing Committee, and elected under the same rules as the regular members; that they pay two dollars and a half (\$2.50) annual dues without initiation fee; and that they have all the privileges of full members, except that of voting or holding office in the Society; unanimously carried.

It was moved by Mr. Scott, and seconded by Mr. Thorne, that the Secretary be requested to ask the editors of the various Philatelic papers to notice in their journals the formation of our new Auxiliary Membership.

The Chair announced a paper by Mr. J. M. Andreini on the "Plate Nos. of U. S. Stamps of 1894" for the December meeting, and also that the annual election of officers would occur at that meeting. Mr. Thorne and Mr. Andreini were appointed as auditors for the yearly auditing of the Treasurer's accounts as required by the Constitution.

Mr. Herrick exhibited the Moscow envelope

entire (the small size) bearing the excessively rare red stamp. Mr. Thorne exhibited his superb collection of U. S. and Confederate stamps, which were greatly enjoyed by those present.

After reading the minutes of the meeting for information and correction, the meeting at 10.30 adjourned.

CHAS. GREGORY, *Secretary, pro tem.*

PLYMOUTH PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

President—A. R. BARRETT.

Vice-President—R. TYETH STEVENS.

Treasurer and Hon. Secretary—A. LEVY.

THE third ordinary meeting of the session was held at 9a, Princess Square, on Wednesday, November 20th. The Vice-President in the chair.

Lt.-Col. Ely and the Rev. E. Bell were elected members.

The subject of study for the evening was "The Two Dies of the One Penny Line-engraved Stamp of Great Britain." The Vice-President read extracts from the Earl of Kingston's paper, and explained his own views. He considered the line which formed the nostril was an unfailing test: in Die I this consisted of a slightly-curved stroke, or

dash, whereas in Die II. the curve was more pronounced, and ended at the side nearest the ear with a distinct bend. The Hon. Sec. was of opinion that Die II. was chiefly to be distinguished by the shape of the ear and the lines of shading which *crossed* it, which are plainly visible; these lines in Die I. were engraved very faintly, and as a rule are only to be seen on early impressions, except by very close examination.

Exchange of stamps brought the meeting to a conclusion.

ASHER LEVY, *Hon. Sec.*

190, UNION STREET, PLYMOUTH.

OTTAWA PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

RE-ORGANIZATION BY THE CANADIAN CAPITAL'S PHILATELISTS FOR THE 1895-96 SEASON.

THE members of the Ottawa Philatelic Society held their annual meeting on Wednesday evening, October 2nd, at their rooms, No. 51, Sparks Street. Mr. N. C. Sparks, the retiring President, occupied the chair, and reports for last year were presented. The Secretary-Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$10.97 on hand, and a membership of over twenty-five. The Exchange Superintendent reported a business transacted in his department during the past year to the extent of over \$500. The past season extended from October 1st, 1894, to May 1st, 1895.

The election of officers for this season resulted in the selection of the following: President, H. P. Brumell; Vice-President, R. H. Hunter; Secretary-Treasurer, C. N.

Robertson; Exchange Superintendent, A. F. Sladen; Members of the Executive Committee, N. C. Sparks, J. P. Nutting, and C. B. Powell.

An informal discussion took place upon the plan of work for this season, and some of the members exhibited some of their recent acquisitions in the stamp line. Three new members were received during the evening. Meetings will be held every first and third Wednesday in each month.

The first meeting points to a very successful season. The Society will be glad to receive communications on subjects of mutual interest. Such may be addressed to its Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. C. N. Robertson, P.O. Box 464, Ottawa, Ont.

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS.—*All communications on Philatelic matters should be addressed to the Editor of THE LONDON PHILATELIST, Kingston Lodge, Richmond Place, Brighton.*

ADVERTISEMENTS *should be sent to* MR. H. M. GOOCH (Advertising Department), Effingham House, Arundel Street, London, W.C.

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NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.—*Subscribers, whose subscriptions expire with the December number, will greatly oblige by renewing as early as possible before the publication of January number. Such a course saves our publisher much trouble, and prevents disappointment in the supply of back numbers. The subscription is 6s. (\$1.50), post-free all over the world.*

BRITISH INDIAN POST CARDS.

To the Editor of the "London Philatelist."

DEAR SIR,—I have lately come into the possession of two British Indian Post Cards, which I do not find catalogued in any catalogue of adhesives and post cards. Both cards are of the value of a quarter of an anna, and both have passed through the post, and, curiously enough, both come from the same place—a small village town in these Provinces. As is well known, the colour of the stamp of the $\frac{1}{4}$ anna post card of British India is now the same as it was in 1881, when post cards were first used in India, viz., red brown. The colour of the stamp on one of the post cards in my possession is olive green or bronze green, whilst the other is a slaty blue. These colours are also seen in the coat of arms, and also in the letters of the inscription on the card face. The cards appear to be very old, as the paper is discoloured and very brittle. I have tried to get unused copies through the post officials of the town where the cards were posted, but without success. The paper does not *look* as if the colours of the embossed stamps, arms, and inscriptions had been chemically changed, and, so far, I have not been successful in changing the colour of the ordinary red brown stamp on the current post card to any colour in any way resembling the colours on the post cards I have. Can you or any of your readers inform me whether these varieties have been chronicled before? I have a $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, unused, envelope of the current green embossed stamp type, small size, in which the embossed stamp is quite free from colour, and I have seen two others, one used, and one unused, in Mr.

Hynes' collection. I do not see this variety catalogued. I am, yours truly,

G. F. A. HARRIS,

Surgeon-Major, I.M.S.

NAGPUR, C.P., INDIA, Nov. 13th, 1895.

LEEWARD ISLANDS' REMAINDERS.

DEAR SIR,—In your last issue I notice a report of a paper read by Mr. W. T. Wilson before the Birmingham Philatelic Society, which contains a few errors which I will be glad if you will rectify. Referring to the old Leeward Islands remainders bought by me from the Government, he says "Dominica, 1/-, CA wmk.—1428 remainders of these were sold by the Crown Agents, 1891. Stanley Gibbons' price, 70/-."

He is quite correct as to the number sold, but wrong in describing them as CA wmk. As I thought all advanced collectors knew, by this time, only about one half of this number were CA. The exact figures were CC, 754, and CA, 774. Stanley Gibbons (under "errata") quote this stamp at £5, and this price, in my opinion, does not represent its value, as I have recently sold at £6 10s. The next item to which I take exception is "St. Christopher. Remainders 2505. 6d., CA, olive-grey, issued May (?) 1890. Stanley Gibbons' price 70/-. Unused £5. Total at £5 each £12525." I cannot understand what unused £5 means, but wish, as in the last case, to put him right as to his figures. The number of CA watermark in this lot was 1217, the balance being the old CC wmk. I hope soon to know exactly the number of CA wmk. of both those varieties that were sent out to the Islands, and will let you have the numbers if I get them. I believe I am correct in saying that none of those stamps have been available for postage

since I bought the remainders. I know that some have been postmarked, but that does not alter my opinion.

Yours faithfully,

T. H. THOMPSON.

LEEWARD VILLA, KILBURN PARK, N.W.

Dec. 17th, 1895.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

DEAR SIR,—In the current number of the *London Philatelist* you print an illustration of the British East Africa on British East Africa *Company's* late surcharged issue. For list you refer back two or three numbers. On looking at that list, I notice you omit to chronicle the 1 rupee, black on rose, of which variety I possess a used specimen. In your

September issue, speaking of a letter of Mr. Marsden's, drawing your attention to the new initials of the Postmaster of the British East Africa *Company's* at Mombasa, as written under the scrip surcharges, you say—"it looks like K.C.R." The initials, however, are not K.C.R., but I.E.C.R. with a small flourish below the C.R. You also say "the specimen is dated March 22, '95 of this year." This seems to me to be very curious, as I have two copies of the same stamp, both dated July 9th. Thus, there is rather a discrepancy of date. My informant, who should know, says, "the stamps were only in use for a few days." A "few days," even in its most extended sense, will hardly cover 109 days. Can it be that there were three issues of this stamp? PHILO.

The Market.

To prevent mistakes—Unused copies are always so distinguished. Where no comment is included, the specimen is invariably to be taken as used.

PALL MALL-ESE.

THE *Pall Mall Gazette* thus waxes amusing anent a recent sale:

"The sale of Mr. H. S. Laing's postage stamps has realized good prices, and is of the best augury for the future of this kind of stock. A fine lot of British Guianan thirty-three-year-olds averaged thirteen pounds apiece or so, while a fine up-standing mauve New Brunswicker went for double that price. There were some Canadians also, but not entire, and consequently they fetched no more than £13 10s. But the best lots came from Mauritius. Pairs for double harness fetched high prices, and a single animal was knocked down for no less than £29. Finally, a record price was obtained by a splendid team of four well-matched 2d. post-paid specimens from the same island; they sold for two hundred and ten pounds. We have a small stamp farm ourselves at Charing Cross Road, and we shall be very glad to sell off our yearlings at something like this price if any Philatelist will be so kind as to give it."

MESSRS. VENTOM, BULL, & COOPER.

Among many desirable lots disposed of on November 28th and 29th, a pair of "Sydneys" 2d., blue, Plate I., early impression, unused, obtained the highest figure, which was £25; the following were also sold:

Great Britain, 6d., octagonal, un-
used (not fine)

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 2s., brown	2	6	0
Gibraltar, 1st issue, complete, unused	3	12	6
Heligoland, 1 and 5 marks	2	17	6
Bremen, 7 grote, black on yellow, imperf.	2	8	0
Hanover, 10 gros., green	2	10	0
Wurtemberg, 1858, 18 kr., blue, imperf., horizontal pair	3	5	0
France "Empire," 1 franc carmine, block of 4 unused	2	12	6
Spain, Madrid, 1 cuarto, bronze	2	2	0
Ditto, Carlist stamps, complete set used (13)	4	0	0
Switzerland, "Basle," 2½ rap.	2	15	0
Ditto, Neufchâtel, 5 c., black and red	2	6	0
Ditto, Winterthur 2½ rap.	2	8	0
Afghanistan 1st issue, violet on white laid paper, unused	2	10	0
Ditto, 1293, value in tablet, shahi, black	4	5	0
Ceylon, 4d., rose, imperf. (fair)	22	0	0
Ditto, 8d., brown, imperf, used on original, with a 1d. and 1s., imperf.	22	0	0
Ditto, 2s., blue, imperf.	3	0	0
Ditto, wmk. Cr. CC, 5d., brown, pair	3	12	6
Hong Kong, \$10 rose	2	0	0

Labuan "6," in red on 16 c., blue, with red postmark . . .	£	s.	d.
Gambia, 1s., green, unused . . .	2	5	0
Mauritius, small fillet, 2d., blue, a vertical pair . . .	2	15	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, very large margins . . .	3	15	0
Ditto, Greek border, 2d., blue, horizontal pair . . .	3	3	0
Natal, 1st issue, 9d., blue, used on original, with a 3d., rose . . .	4	17	6
New Brunswick, 1s., violet, cut close . . .	11	0	0
Newfoundland, 1s., orange (fair) . . .	10	10	0
United States, 1869, 90 c. . .	2	2	0
Ditto, ditto, Carrier's stamp, blue on pink . . .	3	15	0
Barbados, 5s., rose, unused . . .	3	10	3
Ditto, 1d., on half 5s., unsevered pair . . .	18	0	0
Nevis, 6d., green (slightly skinned) . . .	7	10	0
Trinidad Litho., fine background 1d. blue, blind roulette at top, on original . . .	2	15	0
Colombia, 1861 issue, complete . . .	4	10	0
Bolivar First Issue, 10c., green . . .	6	10	0
Dominican Republic, First Issue, medio real, black on green . . .	2	15	0
New South Wales, "Sydney," 1d. red, Plate I., pair . . .	3	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 2d. blue, Plate I. . .	3	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, ditto, vertical pair . . .	7	15	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, Plate II., error "crevit" omitted . . .	2	12	6
Ditto Laureated Issue, 8d. orange, New Zealand Thick Paper, 1s. blue-green, horizontal pair . . .	3	3	0
Sandwich Islands, Interisland Postage, 1 c., light blue on thin greyish paper, unused (with Expert Committee's guarantee) . . .	2	6	0
Ditto, ditto, 2 c. light blue, ditto . . .	2	12	6
South Australia perf. x roulette, 6d. sky-blue, unused horizontal pair . . .	15	0	0
Ditto 3d. in red on 4d. blue, unused pair . . .	4	8	0

AN exceptionally fine collection was disposed of on December 12th and 13th, which, beside including the more general rarities, contained one of the finest lots of West Indians yet disposed of by auction, the majority of which were unused specimens of first water, and their fine condition fully justified the prices attained, which, as a

whole, were above the average. The following are some of the lots referred to:—

Bavaria, 1867-68, 1 mark, mauve, imperf., unused . . .	£	s.	d.
Ditto 12 kr., lilac, perf., unused . . .	2	17	6
Bremen, percé en scie, 5 sgr., green, unused . . .	3	5	0
Gibraltar, first issue, complete, unused . . .	3	17	6
Great Britain, 5s., carmine on white paper, Plate IV., unused . . .	9	0	0
Ditto 10s., grey-green on bleuté, wmk. Anchor, unused . . .	24	0	0
Ditto 2s. 6d., lilac on bleuté, unused . . .	2	7	6
Naples, $\frac{1}{2}$ tornese, dark blue, "Cross" . . .	3	8	0
Oldenburg, second issue, $\frac{1}{2}$ gros., black on green, unused . . .	5	0	0
Moldavia, 54 paras, blue on green (slight pin-hole) . . .	14	0	0
Saxony, 3 pf., red (not fine) . . .	3	5	0
Spain, Madrid, 3 c., bronze (clipped) . . .	3	3	0
Ditto 1850, 10 rls., green . . .	3	0	0
Ditto 1853, 2 rls., red . . .	6	6	0
Ditto 1865, 12 cuartos, rose and blue, centre <i>inverted</i> . . .	7	0	0
Ceylon, 2 r. 50 c., red-brown, perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, unused . . .	4	15	0
India, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna, red, unused . . .	3	0	0
Ditto 4 as., blue and red, showing blue dividing lines . . .	33	0	0
Ditto 2 as., green, unused . . .	2	17	6
Shanghai, 1876, 1 cand., rose (error) . . .	4	0	0
Straits Settlements, first issue, complete, unused . . .	5	10	0
Gambia, Cr. CC, 4d., brown, imperf., unused pair . . .	4	0	0
Zululand, 5s., black and carmine, unused . . .	2	12	0
St. Helena, 1871, perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$, 6d., blue, an unused pair . . .	2	17	6
Ditto 1882, perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 14$, 6d., grey-blue, unused pair . . .	3	3	0
Transvaal, 1870-76, 6d., blue, imperf., tête-beche pair, unused . . .	3	0	0
Ditto 1877, 1s., green, tête-beche pair, unused . . .	5	5	0
Ditto 1879, Provisionals, 1d., in black, on 6d., entire unused sheet of sixty, showing all types . . .	80	0	0
New Brunswick, 1s., violet, cut close . . .	15	0	0
Newfoundland, 1s., orange, cut close . . .	10	15	0
Barbados, 5s., rose, unused . . .	4	15	0
Nevis, 1861, perf. 13, 4d., rose, unused . . .	4	10	0
Ditto ditto 6d., grey-lilac, unused pair . . .	6	10	0

Nevis, 1861, 6d., grey-lilac on bluish, unused	£	s.	d.
Ditto ditto 1s., green, unused	3	2	6
Ditto 1867, perf. 15, 1d., lake, entire unused sheet (12), £6 10s. and £7	4	4	0
Ditto ditto 1s., yellow-green, unused	21	0	0
Nevis, 1879, litho., 4d., orange, unused pair	27	0	0
Ditto ditto 6d., grey, entire unused sheet (12)	155	0	0
Ditto Cr. CA, 6d., green, unused pair	20	0	0
St. Kitts, Cr. CA, 1d., lilac-rose, unused pair	11	0	0
Ditto ditto 4d., blue, unused	11	0	0
St. Lucia, 1s., black and orange, unused pair	14	10	0
Ditto 1885, 1s., orange-brown, unused	5	10	0
St. Vincent, wmk. Star, perf. 11½, 1s., rose-red, unused pair	11	0	0
Ditto ditto 5s., rose-red, unused	16	10	0
Ditto 4d. on 1s.	16	10	0
Ditto Cr. CA, perf. 14, 4d., bright blue, unused pair	10	0	0
Trinidad, Cr. CA, perf. 14, 4d., grey, unused pair	7	15	0
Tobago, Cr. CC, 6d., ochre, unused pair	10	10	0
Ditto Cr. CA, 6d., ochre, unused pair	29	0	0
Ditto ditto ditto (single, used)	15	0	0
Ditto ditto ½ penny on 6d., ochre, unused block of four, bottom pair with surcharge inverted	15	0	0
Turks Islands, perf. 11½ × 15, 1s., prune (superb)	30	0	0
Ditto 2½d. on 1s., prune (Gibbons, Type 4), unused pair	6	6	0
Ditto 2½d. on 1s., blue (Type 6), unused	11	10	0
Ditto 4d. on 1s., prune, unused pair (Types 9 and 10)	13	0	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., crimson, single-line border, unused pair	10	10	0
Mexico, 1864 (eagle), 3 c., brown, with surcharge, unused	4	0	0
Antioquia, first issue, 5 c., green	11	10	0
Bolivar, first issue, 10 c., green	4	17	6
South Australia, perf. 10 × 11½, 10d., black on yellow, unused pair	3	15	0
Ditto perf. 11½ × 12½, 9d., red-lilac, printed both sides	5	0	0
Victoria, 1863, 1d., green, wmk. double-lined 4	3	5	0
Ditto "Registered," 1s., red and blue, unused	6	0	0
Western Australia, 6d., bronze	4	2	6

MESSRS. R. F. ALBRECHT & Co.
(New York City.)

We include some of the more interesting lots disposed of at the sale held in New York, on November 19th and 20th. A reference to our advertisement columns will show that some £1034 odd was realised on 658 lots. (85 = £1.)

United States, New York, unused pair, signed	£	s.	d.
Ditto, Providence, 5 c., black, No. 12 on plate, penmarked	6	2	6
Ditto, New York, "City Despatch Post," 3 c., black on blue, wove paper, unused	5	4	0
Ditto, Carrier's stamp, used	8	16	0
Ditto, 1851, 5 c., rust-brown, unused	8	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, ditto	2	6	0
Ditto, 1857-60, 90 c., blue, unused	3	17	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, ditto, very fine	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, reprint, 24 c., dark purple, unused	3	18	0
Ditto, 1861-66, 5 c., mustard-yellow, unused	6	16	0
Ditto, ditto, reprint, 90 c., dark blue, unused	5	19	0
Ditto, 1868, 3 c., grilled all over	3	6	0
Ditto, 1869, 24 c., unused	3	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 30 c., ditto	2	2	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, ditto, superb	3	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 90 c., unused	4	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 90 c.	3	1	0
Ditto, ditto, reprint, 90 c., unused	4	0	0
Ditto, 1870, 90 c., carmine, unused, with grille	3	12	0
Ditto, "Columbus," complete set	3	16	0
Ditto, Executive, 6 c., unused	2	8	0
Ditto, ditto, 6 c.	3	0	0
Ditto, Justice, 30 c., unused	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 90 c., ditto	9	4	0
Ditto, Navy, complete set, unused	4	10	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto	3	19	6
Ditto, State, complete set, 1 c. to 90 c., unused	5	5	0
Ditto, ditto, \$2, unused	2	16	0
Ditto, ditto, \$10, ditto	8	10	6
Ditto, ditto, \$20, ditto	8	2	0
Antigua, first issue, 6d., green, imperf., unused	7	12	0
Ditto, Revenue Stamp, 1d., blue, cancelled "A 01"	3	10	0
Barbados, 1873, 5s., rose-brown, unused	5	16	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto	2	1	0
Ditto, Provisional, 1d. on half 5s. (small D)	5	1	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto (large D)	5	4	0

Bermuda, Provisional, 3d. on 2d., blue, unused	£	s.	d.	Brunswick, 1st issue, 2 sgr. blue, unused	£	s.	d.
Dominica, Cr. CA, 1s., lake, unused	4	6	0	N.S.W. 5d. square, imperf., unused	6	0	0
Nevis, engraved, greyish paper, 4d., rose, unused	4	12	0	Mauritius, 1d. red, early state of plate	7	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., grey-lilac, unused	3	4	0	Dominica Cr. C.A., 1s. carmine, unused	4	17	6
Ditto, ditto, white paper, 4d., orange, unused	2	10	0	Nevis, Litho., 1s. green, entire sheet	27	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 1s., blue-green, unused	4	0	0				
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 1s., yellow-green	4	9	0				
Ditto, lithographed, 6d., grey, unused	12	4	0				
Ditto, Cr. CA, 6d., green, unused	7	2	0				
St. Kitts, "ONE PENNY" on 2½d., blue, <i>small</i> surch., unused	18	0	0				
Ditto, Nevis Revenue stamps, surcharged "St. Christopher" in violet; 1s., dark green, lithographed Nevis stamp, surch. "REVENUE"; 6d., green (head type), surch. "REVENUE"; both used together, on large part of original cover	10	0	0				
Ditto, 1s., lilac, Revenue, surch. "St. Christopher" in black, postally used	5	0	0				
St. Lucia, first issue, 1d., blue, unused	4	1	0				
Ditto, ditto, Cr. CC, perf. 14, 3d., deep blue	4	10	0				
Ditto, ditto, Cr. CA, 1s., black and orange	4	0	0				
Ditto, ditto, 1885, 1s., orange, unused	6	0	0				
St. Vincent, Star wmk., 5s., rose, rose-red, unused	25	0	0				
St. Vincent, 1d. on half 6d. green, unused	5	0	0				
Ditto 4d. on 1s. vermilion	10	12	0				
Tobago CC. 6d. brown, unused	3	1	0				
Turks Islands, 1s. prune, no perfs. one side	12	4	0				
Virgin Islands, no wmk., perf. 15, 6d. rose, unused	6	12	0				

MR. WM. RIDOUT.

The sale on December 6th realised :

Ceylon, 9d. imperf.	3	15	0
Ditto 8d. yellow-brown, perf.	6	10	0
Grenada, 1s. lilac, unused	2	2	0
St. Lucia, 1s. orange, unused	5	5	0
St. Vincent, star wmk., 5s. rose	25	5	0
Cape, wood-block, error, 1d. blue	30	0	0
Moldavia, 54 paras	11	0	0
Virgin Islands, 1s., thin line	4	15	0
Ditto 4d. brown on red, entire sheet	25	5	0
Ditto 6d. rose, entire sheet	46	0	0

Brunswick, 1st issue, 2 sgr. blue, unused	7	10	0
N.S.W. 5d. square, imperf., unused	6	0	0
Mauritius, 1d. red, early state of plate	7	10	0
Dominica Cr. C.A., 1s. carmine, unused	4	17	6
Nevis, Litho., 1s. green, entire sheet	27	0	0

MR. W. HADLOW.

The sale on December 9th included—

Labuan, first issue, wmk. sideways, 12 c., carmine	3	12	6
Naples, 50 grano, lake	2	2	0
Cape, wood block, 1d., bright red	2	6	0
Newfoundland, 1s., orange-vermillion (fair)	7	15	0
N. S. W., Sydney, 2d., grey-blue, Plate 1., early state of plate	2	12	6
S. Australia, first issue, 1d., red, pair	2	0	0

MESSRS. PUTTICK & SIMPSON.

The following, among others, were sold at the two days' sale on December 10th and 11th :—

Brunswick, first issue, 3 sgros., vermilion, unused	5	10	0
Gibraltar, 1st issue, complete	3	10	0
Great Britain, "V R," pair, unused	22	0	0
Hamburg, 9 sch., yellow, imperf.	3	0	0
Hanover, 10 gros., green	2	0	0
Oldenburg, first issue, 1½th, black on rose, unused	3	10	0
Ditto, second issue, ½ gros., black on green, unused	5	15	0
Ditto, ditto, 3 gros., black on yellow	3	15	0
Spain, 1865, 12 cuartos, blue and rose, imperf., <i>inverted</i> centre	11	15	0
Switzerland, Vaud, 5 cts.	2	17	6
Wurtemberg, second issue (with thread), 18 kr., blue, unused	3	17	6
Ditto, third issue (no thread), 3 kr., orange, unused	4	7	6
Ditto, ditto, 6 kr., green, ditto	6	6	0
Ditto, 1873, 70 kr., violet	3	7	6
Ceylon, imperf., 1s. 9d., green, unused	3	7	6
Ditto, ditto, 2s., blue, unused	2	10	0
Ditto, perf., Star wmk., 8d., brown	3	3	0
India, wmk. Elephant's Head, 6 as. 8 pies, unused	4	10	0
Cape, woodblock, 1d., brick-red, pair	12	5	0
Natal, first issue, 6d., green, and 9d., blue	13	0	0
Sierra Leone, 6d., violet, imperf.	2	0	0
British Columbia, 5 cents, rose, imperf., unused	10	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Canada, 6d., purple, imperf.	5	0	0
British Guiana, 1856, 4 cents, crimson (measuring 33 × 46 mm.)	21	0	0
Antigua, 6d., imperf., wmk. Star	3	0	0
Dominica, 1s., lake, unused	5	0	0
Nevis, 6d., grey-lilac on <i>bleuté</i> , unused (no gum)	3	15	0
Ditto, 1s., yellow-green	5	0	0
Ditto, litho., 1d., vermilion, entire sheet of 12, unused	5	10	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., green, unused sheet of 12	26	10	0
Nevis, C A, 6d., green, unused	9	0	0
St. Vincent, wmk. Star, 4d., dark blue, unused	5	15	0
Ditto, 1d., in red, on half a 6d., blue-green	3	17	6
Ditto, ditto, 6d., yellow-green, unused	3	14	0
Ditto, 5s., rose, unused	14	14	0
Ditto, ditto	11	5	0
Ditto, 4d. on 1s.	11	10	0
Tobago, 6d., ochre	3	5	0
Trinidad, litho., fine impression, 1d., bright blue	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 1d., dull blue	6	17	6
New Zealand, 2d., blue, rouletted	6	15	0
Tasmania, 1d., blue, unused	4	7	6
Ditto, wmk. Star, 1d., carmine, im- perf., unused (no gum)	4	15	0
Victoria, 1854, litho., 2d., mauve, block of 9, unused	20	10	0

MESSRS. CHEVELEY AND CO.

THE priced catalogue did not reach us in time for inclusion in our November issue, but we now give the most interesting prices obtained at the four days' sale held on November 6th, 7th, 20th, and 21st, when a portion of the superb collection of Mr. C. J. Lambert was disposed of.

	£	s.	d.
Great Britain, 10d., octagonal, un- used	2	12	0
Ditto, ditto, 1s., ditto, ditto	8	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 6d., wmk. four flowers, Plate 5; block of 8, unused	5	5	0
Ditto, ditto, £5, postally used	2	15	0
Ditto, ditto, wmk. "Orbs," £1, unused	4	7	6
Ceylon, wmk. Star, 8d., yellow- brown, unused	16	10	0
Ditto, 1s. 9d., green, unused	3	3	0
Ditto, 5d., purple-brown, unused	7	10	0
Ditto, wmk. Cr. CC, 5d., purple- brown, unused	8	10	0
Ditto, "Service," 2s., imperf., un- used	6	5	0
India, 1857, 2 as., green, unused	3	3	0
Straits Settlements, first issue, com- plete, unused	5	0	0

	£	s.	d.
British East Africa, first issue, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 4 as., unused	3	0	0
Ditto, $\frac{1}{2}$ a. on 2 as., violet surcharge	2	10	0
Gold Coast, Cr. CC, 1d., blue, un- used	2	16	0
Mauritius, Post Paid, 1d., vermilion, early state, showing vertical lines	6	10	0
Natal, first issue, 1s., buff	4	0	0
Transvaal, 1877, 1d., red, inverted surcharge	6	5	0
Fiji, plain V R, 2d., in black, on 6 c. on 3d.	3	12	6
New South Wales, 1855, 5d., green, imperf., unused	4	4	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 8d., orange	3	0	0
New Zealand, pelure paper, 1s., deep green, perforated	4	0	0
Queensland, 1875, 20s., rose, unused	2	4	0
South Australia, 1855, 1s., violet, unused	10	0	0
Tasmania, "Halfpenny" on 1d.; the error "AL" sideways	4	4	0
Victoria, first issue, 2d.; fine back- ground and border	3	10	0
Ditto, 6d., orange; beaded oval	8	0	0
British Columbia, \$1, green, perf. 14, unused	7	10	0
Ditto, perf. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$, 10 c., unused	2	18	0
New Brunswick, 1s., purple	21	10	0
Ditto, 6d., yellow	5	0	0
Ditto, "Connell," 5 c., brown, unused	22	10	0
Nova Scotia, 1s., violet	26	10	0
Ditto, 1s., plum	20	10	0
Ditto, 6d., green, unused	6	0	0
Newfoundland, 4d., carmine-red	7	10	0
Ditto, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., ditto	10	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, unused	11	15	0
Ditto, 4d., orange, unused	7	0	0
Ditto, 1s., orange	27	10	0
Montserrat, CA, 4d., blue (!)	9	5	0
Bahamas, 1d., imperf.	3	10	0
Barbados, 5s., rose, unused	4	4	0
British Guiana, first issue, 4 c., black on orange; cut round	32	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 4 c., black on yellow; cut round and mounted	38	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 8 c., black on green; cut round	23	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 12 c., black on indigo; cut square	35	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 12c., black on full blue; cut octagonal	15	0	0
Ditto, ditto, ditto, 12 c., black on sky blue	17	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 1851, 1 c., black on magenta	7	5	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 c., black on blue	8	15	0
Ditto, 1853, 1 c., vermilion, unused	5	0	0
Ditto, ditto, 4 c., dark blue, unused	3	0	0

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
British Guiana, 1856, 4 c., black on crimson; cut square (measuring 30 mm.)	24	10	0	St. Vincent, "One Penny" on 6d., yellow-green, unused	4	0	0
Ditto, ditto, another specimen (35 × 27 mm.)	21	0	0	Ditto, 4d. on 1s., unused	16	10	0
Ditto, 1862, 4 c., black on blue; border of rosettes, unused	15	0	0	Ditto, 5s., rose, unused	18	0	0
Dominica, C A, 1s., unused	5	0	0	Ditto, 4d., red-brown, unused	6	0	0
St. Kitts, C A, 1d., lilac-rose, unused	4	10	0	Trinidad, "Lady McLeod," pen cancelled	12	0	0
St. Vincent, 1s., brown, unused	7	0	0	Virgin Islands, perf. 15, 6d., pink on white paper, unused	7	10	0
Ditto, $\frac{1}{2}$ d., in red, on half a 6d., yellow-green, pair, unused	4	7	6	Ditto, ditto, on yellowish	8	5	0
Ditto, 1d., in red, on half a 6d., blue-green, pair, unused	17	0	0	Ditto, 1s., crimson, thin outer line	4	15	0
				Ditto, ditto, double outer lines	7	0	0

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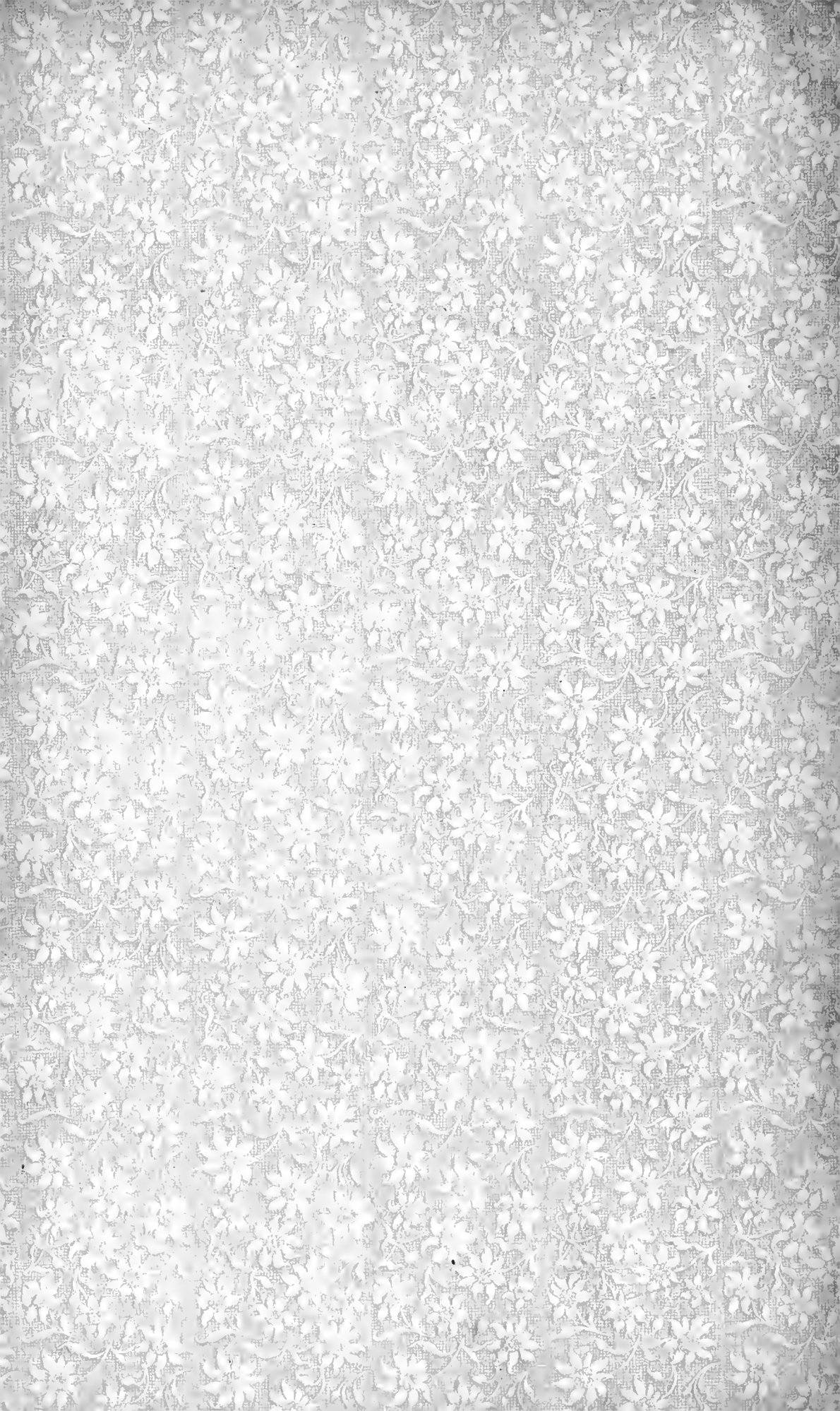
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